

Hafa Adai!

People influenced by news more than they realize—survey. **PAGE 5**
NMTI pushes to boost enrollment for next school year. **PAGE 7**

\$1

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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28,000 local stimulus checks worth \$25M to be released



JGO INVESTIGATION

Viola Alepuyo, counsel for special assistant for administration Mathilda A. Rosario, stresses a point to House legal counsel Joseph Taijeron during a recess in the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations hearing last Friday. Also in the photo is Rosario, who invoked her right to speak in Chamorro and have the questions and statements prior to the question be translated to her in Chamorro.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI taxpayers and all their dependents, including adult children, will get \$500 each in local stimulus, according to Finance Secretary David DLG Atalig, who said his department expects to release about \$25 million for this purpose using the American Rescue Plan Act money.

The checks will be out before Aug. 15, said Atalig in response to *Saipan Tribune's* request for clarification about

the local stimulus.

He said at a radio news briefing last Friday that they're

See **STIMULUS** on **Page 4**

IN BRIEF

- Checks released before Aug. 15
- Taxpayers' dependents included
- No income threshold required

Man drowns at Bird Island

On Saturday, July 17, 2021, at about 12:47pm, the CNMI Department of Public Safety received a 911 call reporting an overdue swimmer at the Bird Island Beach in Marpi. Units from the Boating Safety Unit that were dispatched to the area arrived at the beachside at about 1:25pm and met with the caller.

At about 1:47pm, the DPS

See **MAN** on **Page 4**

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

COVID deaths, cases rise again globally

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and MARIA CHENG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

COVID-19 deaths and cases are on the rise again globally in a dispiriting setback that is triggering another round of restrictions and dampening hopes for a return to normal life.

The World Health Organization reported Wednesday

See **COVID** on **Page 4**

AT A GLANCE

As of 6:59pm, July 19, 2021

VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **68.9%**

Days since last community transmission **118**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	26,636
Fully Vaccinated:	24,743
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,237
Fully Vaccinated:	3,974
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	498

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,477	1	8,478
Recovered	8,224	49	8,273
Active	61	1	62
Deaths	142	0	142

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	187	1	188
Traced via Travel Screening	150	1	151
Traced via Community Screening	37	0	37
Deaths	2	0	2

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecni.com/vax-dashboard/

INSIDE



LOCAL
Myrnalynn Babauta, who won \$1,000 in the Road to 80 raffle last Friday, has received her prize.

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LOCAL
The Joeten Daidai Foundation awards \$2,000 each to eight scholarship recipients.

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LOCAL
Aaron Maruzzo, a former CUC water lab analyst, is named one of 20 2021 Switzer Fellows.

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GOT A NEWS TIP?

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Local

Another incoming traveler tests positive

The CNMI's total COVID-19 cases rose to 188 yesterday when the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and the COVID-19 Task Force said an incoming traveler tested positive via travel screening and confirmed diagnosis through fifth-day testing last July 17.

CHCC said the individual has been moved to the designated isolation area at the Kanoa Resort alternate care

site for close monitoring. The CHCC Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team has initiated contact tracing for contacts with the highest risk of exposure.

Out of the 188 total COVID-19 cases in the CNMI, 151 were identified by travel screening while 37 were local transmissions.

CHCC added that based on what they know about vac-

cines for other diseases and early data from clinical trials, experts believe that getting a COVID-19 vaccine also helps keep you and your loved ones from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

CHCC, meanwhile, also announced free COVID-19 testing tomorrow, July 21, at the Kanoa Resort alternate care site, from 1pm to 3pm.

Register on site or online at www.vaccinatecnmi.com/

covidtesting. This test is not recommended for outbound travel purposes.

Consider registering for vaccinations at www.vaccinatecnmi.com, or by calling the CHCC call center at 682-SHOT (7468), or registering in person at any vaccination site. View the new COVID-19 dashboard at <https://chcc.datadriven.health/covid19> (updates next business day). *(Saipan Tribune)*

Board of Parole OK's request for early release of 10 felons

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Parole approved 10 of the 12 parole applications submitted by convicted felons who are serving time at the Department of Corrections.

After deliberations came to an end last Friday, the board unanimously decided to approve the parole applications of Huang Rui Jun ("ice" trafficking), Liao Guofeng ("ice" trafficking), Xiao Ping Wang ("ice" trafficking), Benjamin Lee (burglary), Ronnie San Nicolas ("ice" trafficking), Felisha Ann Basa (robbery and theft), Paul Anthony Lizama ("ice" trafficking), Benigno Muna Sablan (possession of a controlled substance) Daniel M. Quitugua (impersonating a police officer, theft), and Artemia Gabayero (robbery).

According to Ramon B. Castro, CNMI Board of Parole chair, most of the felons were granted early release on the condition that they be deported immediately and not be released to the CNMI community.

Meanwhile, the felons who are CNMI locals were granted early release under the condition that they enter the HOPE Recovery program.

Gabayero will be deported to the Philippines, while Huang Rui Jun, Liao Guofeng and Xiao Ping Wang will be in the custody of Immigration and Customs Enforcement while their travel documents are being processed before they are repatriated to China.

The remaining two who also applied for parole, Juan Tydingco and Julian Sablan, were taken off of the list.

According to Camacho, because Tydingco was convicted for misdemeanors and not felonies, he was not eligible for parole because the Board of Parole only considers a parole application of an inmate if sentenced under the felony guidelines.

Tydingco was convicted of several traffic offenses and possession of methamphetamine.

Sablan, on the other hand, was taken off the list after he committed an infraction at Corrections while his parole application was being reviewed.

Sablan was convicted of burglary and theft.

For burglary he was sentenced to five years' suspended imprisonment except for three years, while for theft he was sentenced to one-year imprisonment.

CPA: Star Marianas' airfare increase is 'unacceptable'

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority says Star Marianas' recent increase in airfare from Saipan to Rota and Tinian is unacceptable for a number of reasons. Star Marianas says it is raising its prices effective Aug. 1.

According to CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, this is unacceptable because, first, Star Marianas haven't made payments to CPA since 2015, and second, all CPA fees were waived since June up until December.

"At this time, it is unconscionable given the fact that one, you're not paying anything. There's a waiver on all these fees, and the fact of the matter is you've been increasing your rates citing the fact that CPA has been increasing rates and fees but you have not been paying. All this time, you haven't been paying and you continue to increase your ticket prices. What's the logic in that," she said.

King-Hinds said since 2015, Star Marianas owes CPA around \$2.3 million in enplanement fees, deplanement fees, landing fees, and various fees CPA imposes on all airline carriers doing business with CPA.

"This is the result of basical-

ly a monopoly in the industry so it's difficult and it's unfortunate that they're doing this at a time when basically people are struggling. Not only at a time when people are struggling, but when you're not paying a dime," King-Hinds said.

The CPA chair said she expects Star Marianas to justify the increase as a result of the hike in fuel prices but all CPA fees have been waived 100%, so to CPA, an increase does not make sense.

"I anticipate Star Marianas to basically say, 'Hey, we are increasing these fees as a result of the gas,' which is fine but you're not paying anything. And to top it off, all the fees are waived until December so from 2015 that you haven't paid, and beginning June we waived all fees 100%, but you're still increasing ticket prices. It doesn't make sense," she said.

According to the Star Marianas Air website, the fare for flights between Saipan and Tinian will increase to \$60 from \$55 while the fare for flights between Saipan and Rota will rise to \$135 from \$125.

The website also indicated that Star Marianas will continue to offer discounts to CNMI residents and military personnel who travel to and from Saipan and Tinian.

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670.235-NEWS (6397)

Babauta wins \$1K in Road to 80's first weekly raffle

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

One of the two winners of a

Torres says Democrat reps not doing anything to aid retirees, help find \$10M for medical referral

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said Friday that Democrat members of the House of Representatives that are involved in the investigation of his travels and expenditures should instead do something to help the CNMI's retirees and the medical referral program.

Asked during radio press briefing whether the ongoing investigation by the House Judiciary and Governmental Operations Committee into his and the first lady's expenditures and travels will affect his re-election bid, Torres said some JGO members keep repeating the same questions they already asked a couple of years ago.



Torres

"They had the same information. They're asking the same information again," said the governor, adding that the Democrat representatives are concerned about too many different things. Torres said he is confident that what he has done is for the best interest of representing the CNMI in every capacity and any occasion. "So for me, at the end of the day, they're going to realize that everything that I've done has not violated anything," he said.

Torres characterized the JGO investigation as the Democrats' "political move" on what they want to accomplish, rather than looking for ways to protect the retirees and do anything to find \$10 million for the medical referral program.

"I don't see any action by them," the governor said.

\$1,000 raffle last Friday received her prize yesterday morning, with raffle host Brad Ruzala giving the

"They are continuing to do what they feel is in their interests."

In the meantime, Torres said, he will continue to do what he believes is right and what he's voted for—to bring back the economy and make sure that the livelihood of every individual in the CNMI is better. "And as you see, with this pandemic, we continue to be one of the safest places on Earth. I don't see them acknowledging that. So I expect that from them," Torres said. "I will continue to do what I need to do."

He said he does not see any action from any of the Democrats in wanting to make the community better again.

On his announcement last week to seek a second term as governor in next year's gubernatorial election, Torres thanked the voters who have "blessed" him with his career since running for the House, Senate, and the 2018 general election. He said his election gave him the opportunity and great honors to represent the people.

Torres said he worked hard this year and last year and that there's still a lot of work that needs to be done. "We've done a lot. And I want to make sure that we continue to do the progress that we've made in the last several years," the governor said.

He said that's one of the reasons why he wants to ask for the continued blessing and support of the community, so he could finish the things that his administration wants to accomplish.

woman \$1,000 in cash at her workplace. The handoff was streamed on Facebook Live.

After receiving her prize from Ruzala, Myrnyalynn Babauta recounted that she got her first shot of a COVID-19 vaccine in March, saying she got the vaccine at the time "to protect my family." Ruzala told Babauta and all those that tuned into the livestream that Babauta and other future winners are able to win more than once, and are still entered in the other upcoming raffles.

Learned separately through a text from Ruzala on Monday afternoon, last Friday's second winner of \$1,000, Joseph Dalupo, will receive his prize once he receives his second vaccine shot. Ruzala said that Dalupo is scheduled to receive his second shot on Thursday.

Last Friday's raffle, along with the upcoming six weekly raffles, is all part of the COVID-19 vaccination campaign Road to 80. One winner of \$1,500 will be announced this Friday, July 23.

Road to 80's series of weekly raffles, which began last Friday, will only pull from a pool of the tens of thousands of people in the CNMI that have received their first dose of the



Raffle host Brad Ruzala and one of last Friday's two winners of \$1,000, Myrnyalynn Babauta, share a photo outside of Babauta's workplace on Monday morning. The second winner of last Friday's raffle, Joseph Dalupo, will receive his prize shortly after he gets his second vaccine shot on Thursday. One winner of a \$1,500 raffle will be announced this Friday, July 23.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine or their single dose of the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccine. Everyone who has information on record through registering online at vaccinatecnmi.com and has received their shots qualify.

For winners to claim their prize, they must submit proof that they are fully vaccinated. For those who received the

Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccines, this means providing the second vaccine confirmation number. Those who received the Johnson & Johnson or Janssen vaccines only need to provide their single vaccine confirmation number.

From this week to week seven, the weekly cash prizes are as follows: \$1,500; \$2,000; \$2,500; \$3,000;

\$3,500; \$4,000. On Aug. 28 at the Taste of the Marianas main stage, multiple winners of thousands of dollars and one winner of a 2020 Nissan Rogue will be announced.

Those interested in receiving their COVID-19 vaccine can schedule an appointment online at vaccinatecnmi.com or over the phone at 682-SHOT (7468).



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514

Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: <http://www.nmhc.gov.net>

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Available for Public Review & Comment PY2021 Annual Action Plan July 19, 2021

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) announces the availability for public review and comment, the Program Year 2021 Annual Action Plan (AAP).

The AAP is mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Community Planning and Development, for the use of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds received by NMHC. NMHC is the Grantee of these HUD funds. NMHC administers CDBG, HOME, and ESG programs on behalf of the CNMI.

The PY2021 AAP identifies NMHC's proposed use of HUD PY2021 CDBG, HOME, and ESG funds totaling \$1,514,000.00 for the second year of the ConPlan cycle. A detailed list of the proposed projects and activities are shown below.

Community Development Block Grant		Project Sponsor	Project Type	Amount
1	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services Purchase of Personal, Protective, Equipment (PPEs)	CNMI Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services	Public Facility	\$ 106,000.00
2	Kagman Community Park Phase 2	Rotary Club of Saipan	Public Facility	\$245,000.00
4	Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan Multi-Purpose Facility	Office of the Mayor of Tinian	Public Facility	\$ 195,000.00
5	Community Fitness Court Facilities	Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs	Public Facility	\$ 230,332.80
6	Planning and Administrative Costs	Northern Marianas Housing Corporation	Planning and Administrative Costs	\$194,083.20
Total				\$970,416.00
Emergency Solutions Grant		Project Sponsor	Project Type	Amount
7	Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Assistance/ Housing Relocation and Stabilization Services	NMHC	Homeless Prevention/ Rapid Rehousing	\$ 65,670.70
8	ESG Administrative Cost	NMHC	Program Administration	\$ 5,973.30
9	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)	NMHC	HMIS	\$8,000.00
Total				\$ 79,644.00
HOME Investment Partnership Grant		Project Sponsor	Project Type	Amount
10	HOME Rehabilitation Program	NMHC	Affordable Housing	\$ 394,349.00
11	HOME Administration	NMHC	Program Administration	\$ 69,591.00
Total				\$ 463,940.00

The AAP will be available electronically on NMHC's website at www.nmhc.gov.net. If you would like to obtain a copy or require additional information please contact Zenie P. Mafnas, Deputy Corporate Director at 234-6866 or by email at deputydirector@nmhc.gov.net.

NMHC is inviting the public to comment on the proposed AAP. NMHC supports pandemic safety protocols and current mandated social distancing requirements. A virtual public hearing will be held on Friday, July 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom. Login information may be found on NMHC's website.

Any person(s), agency, or organization wishing to comment on the AAP are encouraged to do so by submitting written comments to the NMHC main office at Garapan, Saipan, and/or to the Rota and Tinian Field Offices, no later than 4:30 pm Monday, July 26, 2021. Written comments may also be submitted via facsimile at (670)234-9021 or by submitting via email to deputydirector@nmhc.gov.net. Comments must be received no later than 4:30 pm Monday, July 26, 2021. Should you require special accommodations, please contact Ms. Mafnas, at the NMHC main office, at 670-234-6866.

/s/ Jesse S. Palacios
Corporate Director

This ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD CPD funds

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars this month. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ July 22, 2021-How to get Women Owned Small Business Certified

WOSB is now an official certification program. We will discuss the certification program as well supporting document requirements.

■ July 27, 2021-How to

get 8(a) Certified

The SBA's 8(a) Program was created to help small, disadvantaged businesses compete in the federal procurement market. The Guam PTAC will help you navigate the forms and requirements of the 8a program.

■ July 29, 2021-SBA Mentor Protege Program

The SBA Mentor-Protege program is modeled after the 8(a) Mentor-Protege Program. The Guam PTAC will update you on the eligibility requirements and how to apply.

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)

Bill will require those who visit NI to seek mayor's permission

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Two lawmakers have introduced legislation that would require written permission from the Northern Islands Mayor's Office for aircraft or personal landings on any of the Northern Islands.

Reps. Sheila J. Babauta (D-Saipan) and Joel C. Camacho (R-Saipan)'s House Local Bill 22-18 proposes



Babauta

to amend Title 10, Division 3 of the Commonwealth Code by inserting Chapter 15 to establish permitting requirements for aircraft and/or personal landings in the Northern Islands.

Babauta and Camacho believe that it is imperative to establish permitting requirements for visits to the Northern Islands for safety and precautionary purposes.

The lawmakers stated in the bill that permitting requirements will allow the mayor and

his/her staff to be aware of activities that are taking place and aid such individuals when necessary.

"The safety of both the natural surroundings and human life are of great importance," the lawmakers said.

Under the legislation, no aircraft or personal landings on the Northern Islands shall be allowed without first obtaining written permission from Northern Islands Mayor's Office.

Each island shall require a separate



Camacho

landing permit.

The Northern Islands Mayor's Office shall establish and promulgate rules and regulations, including but not limited to penalties and fees.

Babauta and Camacho said the Northern Islands is considered an alluring gem of significant importance to the Commonwealth that must be valued and protected at all times from any foreseeable and unfore-

seeable forces.

Babauta and Camacho said many people, either private citizens or businesses, have traveled to the Northern Islands without proper authorization.

Without such authorization and proper knowledge of the surrounding areas, these individuals will not only endanger the islands' natural surroundings but also endanger their own lives in the event of a catastrophic occurrence such as shipwreck, capsizing, boat engine failure, and others, they said.

COVID

From Page 1

that deaths climbed last week after nine straight weeks of decline. It recorded more than 55,000 lives lost, a 3% increase from the week before.

Cases rose 10% last week to nearly 3 million, with the highest numbers recorded in Brazil, India, Indonesia and Britain, WHO said.

The reversal has been attributed to low vaccination rates, the relaxation of mask rules and other precautions, and the swift spread of the more-contagious delta variant, which WHO said has now been identified in 111 countries and is expected to become globally dominant in the coming months.

Sarah McCool, a professor of public health at Georgia State University, said the combination amounts to a "recipe for a potential tinderbox."

"It's important that we recognize that COVID has the potential for explosive outbreaks," warned Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease specialist at Johns Hopkins University.

Amid the surge, the death toll in hard-hit Argentina surpassed 100,000. Daily coronavirus deaths in Russia hit record highs this week. In Belgium, COVID-19 infections, driven by the delta variant among the young, have almost doubled over the past week. Britain recorded a one-day total of more than 40,000 new cases for the first time in six months.

In Myanmar, crematoriums are working morning to night. In Indonesia, which recorded almost 1,000 deaths and over 54,000 new cases Wednesday, up from around 8,000 cases per day a month ago, people near Jakarta are pitching in to help gravediggers keep up.

"As the diggers are too tired and do not have enough resources to dig, the residents in my neighborhood decided to help," Jaya Abidin said. "Because if we do not do this, we will have to wait in turn a long time for a burial."

In the U.S., with one of the highest vaccination rates in the world, newly confirmed infections per day have doubled over the past two weeks to an average of about 24,000, though deaths are still on a downward trajectory at around 260 a day.

Los Angeles County, the most populous county in the U.S., reported its fifth straight day Tuesday



Workers in protective gear lower a coffin of a COVID-19 victim to a grave for burial at the Copenjo Cemetery in Bogor, West Java, Indonesia, Wednesday, July 14, 2021.

AP

of more than 1,000 new cases.

Tokyo is under a fourth state of emergency ahead of the Summer Games this month, with infections climbing fast and hospital beds filling up. Experts have said caseloads could rise above 1,000 before the Olympics and multiply to thousands during the games.

The spike has led to additional restrictions in places like Sydney, Australia, where the 5 million residents will remain in lockdown through at least the end of July, two weeks longer than planned. South Korea has placed the Seoul area under its toughest distancing rules yet because of record case levels.

Parts of Spain, including Barcelona, moved to impose an overnight curfew. London Mayor Sadiq Khan said masks will be required on buses and trains even after other restrictions in England are lifted next week. Italy warned all those going abroad that they might have to quarantine before returning home.

Chicago announced that unvaccinated travelers from Missouri and Arkansas must either quarantine for 10 days or have a negative COVID-19 test.

Connecticut lawmakers voted Wednesday to again extend Democratic Gov. Ned Lamont's emergency declarations, despite pushback from Republicans and some Democrats who argued it is time to get back to normal. Among other things, the move keeps in place orders requiring masks in certain settings.

An Alabama military base has ordered troops to show proof of vaccination before they can go maskless as the state sees an uptick in COVID-19 cases, a rise attributed to low vaccination rates. The measure was put in place Tuesday at Fort Rucker, home to the Army's aviation program.

As troubling as the figures are around the world, they are still well below the alarming numbers seen earlier this year.

Seven months into the vaccination drive, global deaths are down to around 7,900 a day, after topping out at over 18,000 a day in January, according to Johns Hopkins data. Cases are running at around 450,000 a day, down by half since their peak in late April.

WHO acknowledged that many countries are now facing "considerable pressure" to lift all remaining precautions but warned that failing to do it the right way will just give the virus more opportunity to spread.

Pressure is growing worldwide to boost vaccination rates to counter the rise.

"If you have been waiting, if you have been on the fence, sign up and get that shot as soon as possible," New York City Health Commissioner Dr. Dave Chokshi pleaded.

Eighteen-year-old actress and singer Olivia Rodrigo appeared at the White House on Wednesday as part of an effort by President Joe Biden to persuade more young people. Getting a vaccination is some-

thing "you can do more easily than ever before," she said.

While nearly 160 million Americans have been fully vaccinated, or over 55% of the population, young adults have shown less interest.

Ohio is planning another prize

program to encourage vaccinations, and Gov. Mike DeWine urged the government to give the vaccines full approval instead of just emergency authorization to ease people's doubts.

"The reality is we now have two Ohios," said Bruce Vanderhoff, the state's chief medical officer. "An Ohio that is vaccinated and protected on the one hand, and an Ohio that is unvaccinated and vulnerable to delta on the other."

Michigan already started a COVID-19 vaccine sweepstakes and announced the first four \$50,000 winners Wednesday. Bigger prizes, including a \$2 million jackpot, are coming.

In Missouri, second only to Arkansas with the worst COVID-19 diagnosis rate over the past week, political leaders in and around St. Louis have stepped up efforts to get people vaccinated through gift cards and by enlisting beauty salons and barbershops to dispense information.

where medics transported the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center.

At 3:11pm, Dr. Muldoon Lilian pronounced the victim dead due to drowning.

Police learned that the 58-year-old went snorkeling with the caller earlier that day at about 12pm. After about 45 minutes the caller got out of the water and noticed that the victim was nowhere in sight. He immediately called for police assistance.

The CNMI Department of Public Safety encourages the public to call 911 anytime to report a crime or an emergency. (PR)

MAN

From Page 1

Impact rescue boat arrived outside the Bird Island reef and began searching the area.

At about 2:21pm, officers on the rescue boat noticed an unresponsive male individual floating face down just outside the Bird Island Lookout. Officers aboard the rescue boat recovered the individual and performed cardio-pulmonary resuscitation and rescue breaths until they arrived at the Smiling Cove Marina

STIMULUS

From Page 1

anticipating to release about 28,000 stimulus checks in all. "Right now, we're still reviewing," he added.

Atalig said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has decided that they are going to provide \$500 each to all taxpayers, including their dependents and without any income thresholds.

The stimulus checks that people previously received from the federal government excluded those who were earning \$75,000 and above per annum. This time, though, Atalig

said, based on the ARPA funds and the analysis that he provided Torres, they determined that that they can do away with this requirement.

"So every taxpayer and their dependents will get \$500. And so that's exciting," he said.

Atalig said right now they're just verifying the list because they're using data from the past stimulus checks.

"We need to include all taxpayers, those also that are above the threshold," Atalig said.

He previously disclosed that Torres has allocated over \$31 million in ARPA funding for the local stimulus.

Joeten Daidai Foundation awards \$16,000 in scholarships

The Joeten Daidai Foundation awarded last July 15 \$2,000 each to eight scholarship recipients for a total of \$16,000 to assist them with their college expenses.

This year's awardees are Maria Cruz of Kagman High School, Victoria C. Dela Cruz of Marianas High School, Stephanie T. Flores of Marianas High School, Davin Kim of Kagman High School, Samantha Liske-Clark of Saipan International School, Julie Quan of Grace Christian Academy, and Amy Soliman of Marianas High School. Jason Tudela Sablan of Saipan International School is this year's Joeten affiliate/subsidiary scholarship recipient, which is granted to a child of an employee of one of Joeten's subsidiaries or affiliate companies.

On top of their academic excellence, community involvement and extracurricular activities, each qualifying student was tasked to write an essay on a quote from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, "Life belongs to the living, and he who lives must be prepared for changes."

Foundation executive director Patty Palacios stated, "These students have been through Super Typhoon Yutu and now a pandemic. It hasn't been an easy four years for them. They're resilient and I commend them for that. I



Officials of the the Joeten Daidai Foundation pose with the eight scholarship recipients.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

thought the quote was fitting for the students to write an essay about because of the experiences they've gone through, how they faced different obstacles along their journeys and how they've overcome those hurdles the

best way they could."

For nearly 30 years, the Joeten Daidai Foundation has been giving out scholarships to qualified candidates in its efforts to help enhance education for students from the CNMI.

The philanthropic arm of

Joeten enterprises, the foundation was established in 1994 from a vision of the late Jose "Joeten" C. Tenorio and his wife, Soledad "Daidai" Ten-

orio, as a means of giving back to the community. The foundation has been supported by the generosity of Joeten affiliates such as Saipan Shipping

Co., Saipan Stevedore Co., Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc. among many other business partners of Joeten. (PR)

People influenced by news more than they realize—survey

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**
joshua_santos@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An online survey the Northern Marianas Humanities Council conducted last year found that most respondents agreed that people are influenced by news more than they realize, and also agreed that two people might see the same news story and get different information from it.

These findings and what they mean were shared by University of Guam associate professor of journalism Dr. Francis Dalisay last Friday as part of the NMHC's second webinar in a series dubbed the "Minagâhet – Ellet Series." Dalisay also presented findings related to news media skepticism, perceptions of online privacy, and the susceptibility to misinformation and support for preventing the spread of misinformation.

As shared during last week's webinar, NMHC received 481 completed surveys, with 93% of respondents living on Saipan and around 6% said that they were from Tinian or Rota. Dalisay also shared last week that the survey underrepresented males and Filipinos, and was subject

to other sampling biases.

Most importantly, Dalisay cautioned that the survey's results are only representative of the survey's respondents, meaning that the survey results can not be used to predict how the CNMI as a whole consumes or responds to the news.

To gauge the news media literacy of the respondents, Dalisay shared that the survey asked questions with a scale from 1 to 5, with 1 being "strongly disagree," 3 being "neutral," and "5 being strongly agree." The five survey items that the respondents agreed with were:

- People are influenced by news more than they realize (average score of 4.19)

- Two people might see the same news story and get different information from it (4.11)

- A news story about conflict is more likely to be featured prominently (4.03)

- News is designed to attract an audience's attention (3.96)

- News companies choose stories based on what will attract the biggest audience (3.94)

- To gauge the respondents' self-perceived news media lit-

eracy, the respondents agreed that they have a good understanding of the concept of news media literacy (4.04), have the skills to interpret news messages (4.05), and are confident in their abilities to judge the quality of news (4.08).

Dalisay said that the results suggested that the respondents had satisfactory levels of news media literacy and perceived themselves as news media-literate. "Recall, some of those items were 4 and above, which is indicative of a [somewhat] high score of media literacy," said Dalisay.

The survey was conducted in October to November 2020.

The third webinar in the NMHC's four-part series will take place on July 23, with online registration being available sometime this week.

Through the webinars, NMHC hopes to give the community more insight on how the CNMI consumes its news, how skeptical the community is of the news it consumes, and other topics of interest.

More details about the NMHC's ongoing and future events can be found on its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/670humanities>.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

SEABRIDGE, INC.

Administrative Assistant (Temporary, Full-Time)
Rate will start \$7.25 - \$9.25 (based on experience)

General:

Provide administrative and clerical support to management including the management of personnel records. Work under multi-management team while providing personal secretarial services and administrative assistance. Exercise discretion and judgment on occasion and provide courteous, responsive, and accurate information to co-workers. **While position is announced as a temporary employment, may lead to full-time permanent status.**

Job Duties:

- Screen telephone calls and visitors, deciding who can be redirected to appropriate parties or to others offices.
- Provide information to callers, requiring detailed knowledge of the manager's area of responsibility and general knowledge of company policies, practices, and operations.
- Perform confidential administrative functions where reports could have an effect on cost. (Typing, proofing and assembling reports or proposals for customers or outside agencies and taking, transcribing and distributing minutes for important meetings)
- Maintain departmental records and prepare reports.
- Assist with preparing various company reports and communicating with team to ensure respective reports submitted within timeline.
- Schedule meetings and appointments and arrange travel and hotel accommodations, as necessary.
- Forward the appropriate items such as mail, email, phone call to respective Department Managers
- Follow up on all assignments delegated to staff as to status, completion, etc.
- Maintain administrative filing system including items that are confidential.
- May process weekly payroll records.
- Serve as central communication point for co-workers
- Operate office equipment including fax, copier, printer, and binding machines.
- Other duties as assigned.

Required Education and Experience:

- High School Diploma or Equivalent
- 1 year experience
- Proficient with MS Office
- Must be willing to work weekends and holidays if necessary

We are an equal opportunity employer. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national origin, disability or veteran status.

Interested applicants may contact Seabridge, Inc. office at (670) 322-7346 or email Michelle Tomokane at mhtomokane@seabridgespn.com

Ex-CUC water lab analyst Maruzzo named a Switzer Fellow

Aaron Maruzzo, a former water lab analyst for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and now a student at the University of California, Berkeley School of Public Health, has been named one of 20 2021 Switzer Fellows.

The Switzer Fellowship offers one-year fellowships to highly talented graduate students in New England and California whose studies and career goals are directed toward environmental improvement and who clearly demonstrate leadership in their field.

Switzer Fellows are on the leading edge of environmental

and social change through efforts in environmental science, policy, conservation, environmental justice, public health, economics, journalism, urban planning, business, law, and more. Switzer Fellows come from diverse social, academic, and economic backgrounds. They are committed to interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral work, applied results, and collaborative leadership. Further, they are committed to their own professional development and to continually improving their leadership skills throughout their careers.

For three years prior to attending UC Berkeley, Maruzzo worked as a water lab analyst for CUC, a municipal water company in the CNMI, serving the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. In his



Maruzzo

time there, Maruzzo assisted residents in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu, when many were without water or electricity. He also interned for the LA Community Health Project assisting in advocacy efforts as well as working at

harm-reduction sites for those struggling with addiction and homelessness.

Originally from the island of Saipan, Maruzzo was inspired early on in his pursuit of public health by his family's experiences with health inequities when they moved to Southern California, an experience he recognizes is not unique to him.

"Meeting people where they're at" in public health and using interdisciplinary

and community-oriented approaches has always been Maruzzo's interest, even more so as he continues to learn about various approaches through his studies at Berkeley Public Health, pursuing a Masters of Public Health Sciences in Environmental Health Sciences.


"I wanted to find a way to help the community solve its challenges and build its capacity. That we can empower individuals and groups to take action if we listen to their health needs, has really motivated my interest," Maruzzo said.

This summer, Maruzzo is conducting an internship analyzing water contaminants on the Mariana Islands and supporting decision-makers in setting up safe contaminant levels in the drinking water systems.

Justin Remais, Berkeley Public Health professor and

chair of the Division of Environmental and Health Sciences, said that Maruzzo exemplifies the leadership and promise of Switzer Fellows. "This honor recognizes Aaron for his many achievements in his career thus far, including his outstanding academic work. He is greatly deserving of this prestigious fellowship."

On being awarded a Switzer Fellowship, Maruzzo said, "I feel incredibly blessed and grateful to have been selected as a Switzer Fellow. Truly, it's a powerful network of inspiring environmental stewards, and I feel like I'm among titans. Most of all, I'm looking forward to connecting with other Switzer Fellows. I'm hoping to meet colleagues, friends, and mentors that could help the Western Pacific build safer, stronger communities." (*UC Berkeley Public Health*)



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp | Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp


PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairperson of the Board, is hereby giving notice that the Regular Board Meeting is scheduled on **Friday, July 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.** at the **NMHC Conference Room, Saipan**. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance. In compliance with the CNMI COVID-19 guidelines, Face-masks must be worn, social distancing will be enforced, and not more than ten (10) people will be allowed in the conference room during the course of the meeting.

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes (April 29, 2021, May 07, 2021 and May 24, 2021)
- II. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- III. CORPORATE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - a. None
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. CDBG-DR Updates
- V. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Personnel Matters – Selection of CFO
 - b. Loan Review Approval/Denial Authority of the Corporate Director
 - c. Amend Action Plan to Remove Turnkey Home Development Program
- VI. LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
- VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION
- VIII. OTHER MATTERS
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced (Marcie) M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board



CNMI DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB21-OGM-128

SUBMISSION DATE: AUGUST 16, 2021 TIME: 09:30 A.M.

“LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR COVID-19 EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENSION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

****FOR YOUR SAFETY & OURS: ALL INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS ARE REQUIRED TO USE A FACE MASK & ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER UPON ENTRY****

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO MR. EPIPHANIO CABRERA, ADMINISTRATOR OF OGM, VIA EMAIL TO epi.cabrera@gov.mp.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ EPIPHANIO E. CABRERA, JR.
ADMINISTRATOR, OFFICE OF GRANTS

/s/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR, P.S.


VA benefits counselor seeing vets on July 19-22

An accredited veterans service officer from the Veterans Benefits Administration office in Guam is on Saipan from July 19 to 22 at the CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs office at 1364 Anatahan Drive on Capital Hill to see veterans by appointment from 8am to 4pm on all days to answer questions about benefits, assist with benefits and compensation claims processes, and other related needs. Veterans interested in scheduling an appointment with the VSO can do so by calling Bernadita Dela Cruz at 670-664-2650 or 670-664-2651.

In a phone call with CNMI Office of Veterans Affairs executive officer Stanley T.

Iakopo on Monday, it was learned that Kalani Echang from the VBA office in Guam is conducting the outreach, and that the VBA Guam office works under the Veterans Affairs Regional Office in Honolulu, Hawaii. Iakopo also mentioned that another series of outreaches have tentative dates of Aug. 23 and 24 for Saipan; Aug. 25 for Tinian; and Aug. 27 for Rota.

Iakopo said that Echang's visit and the outreaches in August are the first of many things in the pipeline that he hopes will culminate with his staff members receiving the training to become accredited VSOs. (*Joshua Santos*)



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-21-2030

For: Marianas Visitors Authority Global Branding Services

Submission /Closing Date: October 06, 2021 Time: 3:00PM ChST
Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after July 20, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00AM to 5:00PM, Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **“MVA-RFP-21-2030 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY GLOBAL BRANDING SERVICES”**.

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before October 06, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette F. Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to Imaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM, Chamorro Standard Time on September 20, 2021.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
MVA-RFP-21-2023

Marianas Visitors Authority Representation, Promotional and Public Relations Services for the JAPAN MARKET

Submission /Closing Date: September 10, 2021 Time: 3:00PM ChST
Submit sealed proposals to:
Marianas Visitors Authority
Attn: Procurement Office
San Jose Professional Building
Beach Rd., San Jose
P.O. Box 500861
Saipan, MP 96950

Interested parties may pick up the RFP package on or after July 20, 2021 at the Marianas Visitors Authority Office, San Jose Professional Building, Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan, during the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. The RFP package can be emailed to anyone interested. The request via email must reference **“MVA - RFP -21- 2023 MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY REPRESENTATION, PROMOTIONAL AND PUBLIC RELATIONS SERVICES FOR THE JAPAN MARKET”**.

Proposals submitted from individuals outside the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI) must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or certified Courier mail service on or before September 10, 2021 and must be received within seven (7) working days of that date. Proposers from outside the CNMI must notify the MVA Procurement Officer Ms. Lenette F. Maratita in writing of their intent to submit in order to receive the additional seven (7) days for the receipt of the actual Proposal Documents. This notice of intent may be submitted by any mode of written communication including facsimile to +1-670-664-3237 or emailed to Imaratita@mymarianas.com and must be received no later than 3:00PM, Chamorro Standard Time on August 30, 2021.

/s/ Ellsbeth Viola Alepuyo
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

/s/ Priscilla M. Iakopo
Managing Director, MVA



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

ITB21-CHCC/CGC-TLC-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: AUGUST 3rd, 2021 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

“PROCUREMENT OF 15-PASSENGER VAN”

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR, CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/s/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/s/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY



JOB VACANCY RE-ANNOUNCEMENT

MVA IS HIRING!!!

JVA #	VACANT POSITION	OPENING DATE	CLOSING DATE
JVA-21-004	SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE MANAGING DIRECTOR	JULY 6, 2021	JULY 20, 2021
LOCATION	MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY, SAIPAN		

INTERESTED PERSONS MAY CONTACT THE MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY OFFICE AT (670) 664-3200/01 OR VISIT WWW.MYMARIANAS.COM FOR MORE DETAILS.



OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR

INVITATION TO BID (ITB)

ITB21-OPA-001



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: August 3, 2021 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF TWO (2) DELL SERVERS”

THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE, LOCATED AT 1236 YAP DRIVE, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS (MONDAY – FRIDAY, 7:30 AM – 4:30 PM, CLOSED ON HOLIDAYS).

INQUIRIES MAY BE DIRECTED TO MICHELLE A. CAMACHO, OPA PROCUREMENT OFFICER, AT TELEPHONE NUMBERS (670) 322-6481/2 OR E-MAIL TO mcamacho@opacnmi.com.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI OPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC § 130-30-725 AND § 130-30-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC AUDITOR (OPA) RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE OPA. ALL BIDS RECEIVED SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE OPA AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED TO THE BIDDERS.

/S/ KINA B. PETER, CPA
PUBLIC AUDITOR

/S/ MICHELLE A. CAMACHO
PROCUREMENT OFFICER

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.comMark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

In St. Petersburg, climate change smells like rotting fish

This is what climate change smells like. It's the stench of tons of rotten fish washing up on the shores of Tampa Bay. St. Petersburg alone has collected far more than 15 tons, the majority probably blown ashore by Tropical Storm Elsa.

It's true that no one event, even a massive fish kill, can be attributed to climate change. But let's follow the scent. First, the culprit behind the fish kill is Red Tide. It's a naturally occurring bloom of the algae *Karenia brevis*. People don't directly cause Red Tides, but our pollution—especially fertilizer run-off—can make them far worse. Warming oceans, particularly when the water near shore heats up, also can make Red Tide more frequent and harmful, according to University of Florida research.

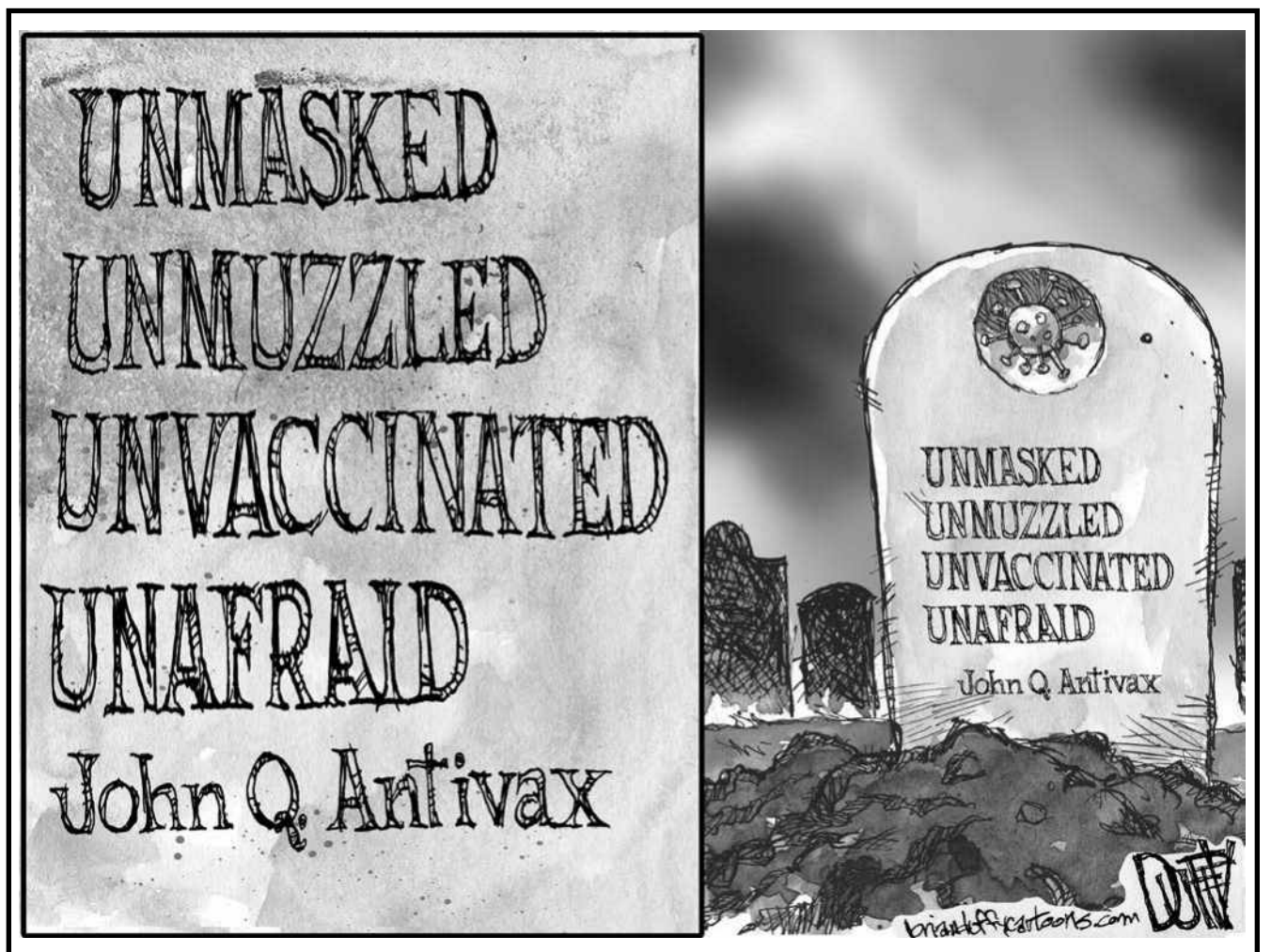
Tropical Storm Elsa didn't kill the fish. However, its winds and waves probably blew the dead fish to Pinellas' shores, where city and county workers have spent the last several days scooping them up by the ton.

Elsa luckily spared us any major damage and flooding. But this hurricane season is already setting records, and climate change and warming oceans are a contributing culprit. Elsa formed on July 1, and no hurricane had formed this early so far east in the so-called Main Development Region since 1933. Also, Elsa was the fifth named storm of the year, something that usually doesn't happen until the end of August. We in Tampa Bay are particularly vulnerable to hurricanes because of our hundreds of miles of shoreline, our low-lying areas and our coastal development. In fact, a World Bank study ranked Tampa Bay as one of the 10 most at-risk areas in the world. Even though we've been lucky for decades, luck eventually runs out, and it takes only one big storm. Climate change and rising seas make this all worse.

And let's not forget that 215 million gallons of wastewater were pumped into Tampa Bay this spring around Piney Point, the site of an old fertilizer plant where a lagoon was in danger of breaching. There is no hard proof that this pollution magnified any of the Red Tide outbreaks, but as Tampa Bay Estuary Program executive director Ed Sherwood told the Times last month, it "doesn't take much to put two and two together."

Climate change skeptics may say none of this—Red Tide outbreaks, early arrival of Elsa, tons of rotting fish—can be pinned on warming oceans and human-caused pollution. But waiting for absolute proof is a delaying tactic that keeps existing solutions from being employed to save the world for tomorrow. If you wait for such incontrovertible proof, you'll wait too long. You don't always have to see the gun's smoke to solve a whodunnit. Sometimes just catching a whiff is enough, whether it's gunpowder or fish stench. Like right now.

©2021 Tampa Bay Times



Inflation is running wild—poor and low-income Americans will be hurt the most

How can we help working families the most? Raising the minimum wage to \$15 an hour is a popular solution, but it's a short-sighted one given the reality that inflation—the silent assassin of Americans' livelihoods, particularly for the poor—is now running the hottest it has in decades.

The Consumer Price Index has increased 5.4% since last year, as announced on July 13 by the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. The monthly rate was 0.6% in May but 0.9% in June. If this rate persists, our nation will experience double-digit inflation. A 0.9% monthly rate translates to an 11.4% annual rate, a level not seen since the 1970s.

Considering all the recent deficit spending by Congress and expansionary policies by the Federal Reserve, expect more of the same, or worse. In fact, according to a survey of economists in a recent issue of *The Wall Street Journal*, "Americans should brace themselves" because economists are waking up to the prospect of higher inflation, expecting "brisk price increases for a while."

Economic history indicates deflation should be the norm. In fact, innovation spawns increased productivity that allows prices to fall, which should show up as deflation. We have the opposite: productivity gains with inflation. This outcome places the blame squarely on monetary and fiscal policy.

Who gets hurt the most? Those who can least afford dramatic price increases for staples like food and rent, and those whose income growth typically lags others—the poor and low-income Americans.

Consider this: The most recent mid-year consumer expenditure report from the BLS found that consumers in the lowest income quintile spend 82.2% of their income on housing, transportation, food and health care, compared to 64.4% for the highest quintile.

A 5% inflation rate would cost those in the lowest quintile an additional \$1,156 for these items on their already tight budgets, averaging \$28,141. A 10% inflation rate would double those costs to \$2,312.

Worse, those in the lowest quintile are unable to save for their future, and inflation erodes the value of the little savings they do have. On average, those in the lowest quintile purchased only \$563 in personal insurance or toward their pensions, compared to \$19,736 in the highest quintile. This disparity guarantees the poor will be inadequately prepared for retirement or unforeseen loss or tragedy.

The impact of inflation was illustrated in a recent focus group

By ERIK RANDOLPH

Tribune News Service

Erik Randolph is director of research for the Georgia Center for Opportunity.



session on working class families conducted by my organization, the Georgia Center for Opportunity. Our focus group consisted of working-class African-Americans who did not have a college degree and who were not employed in a managerial position or on track to achieve a management level position.

One of the women relayed her experience with financial stress up close. She was tempted to quit her job because the cost of day-care was so high. She said that either the minimum wage should be increased or the cost of living should be lowered. That was an incredible observation.

What Jazmine referred to is all about promoting the purchasing power of all Americans. We know that raising the minimum wage has numerous negative impacts—from reducing employment among those groups that minimum-wage laws are designed to help to running mom-and-pop small businesses out of commission in favor of big corporations (think Amazon).

The better option is for Congress to renew our nation's purchasing power policy and get its fiscal house in order. Instead of devising new ways to spend more money we don't have, Congress and the Biden administration should guide the federal government to live within its means and ease restrictions on economic growth. We don't need more fiscal stimulus to fuel more inflation.

Congress can start by reinstating the actively-looking-for-work rule for those receiving unemployment benefits. Our leaders can then put a halt on other benefits that create disincentives to work and benefit cliffs—such as pandemic-related food stamps—for a public health crisis that, for all practical purposes, is gone.

At the same time, we need more production and entrepreneurial risk-taking on the supply side. The sooner we respond in ways that focus on cost-of-living changes for people like Jazmine and promote the purchasing power of all Americans, the better.

VIEWPOINTS:

Olympic dream or COVID-19 nightmare?

By **CHELSEA BOYD**
INSIDESOURCES.COM

Every four years the Summer Olympics bring the world together. Through boycotts and terrorist attacks, the Olympics have persisted, yielding only to World War I and World War II. Athletes, some of whom have spent most of their lives preparing for this moment, come together to represent their countries and test themselves against the best of every country.

Spectators from around the world also descend on the host country, spending millions of dollars while in attendance. The Olympic Games are of great global significance.

But during a global pandemic, bringing people together from across the globe could prove as problematic as beneficial.

COVID-19 has tested the world in ways previously unimaginable to many people. Arguably, an event that raises the world's spirits is exactly what's needed after months of lockdowns and more than 4 million lives lost. Although there is a strong case to be made for postponing or canceling the Tokyo Olympics, many athletes and officials have already arrived in Japan, and it seems as though the Olympic ship has sailed.

Japan and the Olympic Games organizers have already taken some important steps to help make the Games less risky. In March, organizers announced that spectators from international locations would not be allowed during the Games; then, on July 8, they announced that no spectators would be allowed to attend most events. By limiting attendees to only staff, press, contractors, volunteers and competitors, the organizers mitigated one of the riskiest aspects of the Games.

The logistics of testing, or even just temperature checking, every person who enters a venue would be almost insurmountable. Even requiring vaccination would be impractical, since Japan's vaccination rate as of early July was only around 26 percent. Despite the lost revenue from ticket sales, Tokyo Olympic organizers did the right thing for public health by removing spectators from the equation.

Although vaccination will not be required to participate in the Games, organizers project that more than 80 percent of Olympic and Paralympic Village residents will be vaccinated ahead of the Games. With the high efficacy of vaccines and a large proportion of participants being vaccinated, the risk of a super spreader event is greatly diminished.

The Olympic Games organizers also released a series of playbooks to help ensure the Games are as safe as possible. Mandatory masking, encouraging good hygiene measures and social distancing, when

possible, are some of the basic measures included in the playbooks. The playbooks also outline how frequently different participants must be tested for COVID-19 while in Japan. Athletes and anyone with regular interaction with the athletes must be tested daily.

Additionally, anyone arriving in Japan for the Olympics must show proof of two negative COVID-19 tests on two separate days within 96 hours of departure and at the airport at arrival. To facilitate contact tracing and limit movement, participants must submit an "Activity Plan" that details all planned and possible destinations for the first 14 days in Japan and download two smartphone apps that record daily health checks and notify participants of potential contact with someone who tested positive for COVID-19. Although cases can still slip through these precautions, these measures should catch most cases and minimize spread.

The reality is that COVID-19 is not going to disappear. Even after the large-scale surges stop occurring, there will be smaller outbreaks to contend with for many years to come. Because of this, we have to learn to live with COVID-19 as best as possible.

The so-called "Swiss Cheese Model" of pandemic defense is one way to accomplish this. The Swiss Cheese Model demonstrates how, although no one method perfectly prevents infections, when you combine multiple methods, there are fewer "holes" for the virus to slip through and cause new cases. The Olympic organizers are applying this model by using testing, masking, social distancing, vaccinations and other tactics to add layers of protection during the events. The Olympic organizers have an opportunity to show how proper planning and leadership can mitigate risks, when eliminating risk is impossible.

There will, inevitably, be cases and likely small outbreaks of COVID-19 during the Tokyo Olympic Games. It is simply unrealistic to expect anything else when bringing thousands of people together from around the world during a pandemic. Fortunately, the Olympic organizers are following the science and taking as many precautions as possible to make the event safe for Tokyo's residents and Olympic participants.

Chelsea Boyd is a harm reduction fellow at the R Street Institute. She wrote this for Inside-Sources.com.

The show must go on

By **JOEL ZINBERG**
INSIDESOURCES.COM

COVID-19 cases are rising, vaccinations are low, and most of the host country wants to cancel the event. Yet, the Games should go on. The 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics were delayed until July 23, 2021, due to the pandemic. The rescheduled Games face continued headwinds.

More than 80 percent of Japanese, fearing a super-spreader event, want the Olympics canceled. Only 15 percent of the population is fully vaccinated. The country had a surge in cases during May that subsided, but small upticks in new cases in the Tokyo area — approximately 900 new cases per day in a city of 10 million — have prompted Japanese authorities to declare a state of emergency.

Japan had earlier barred foreign spectators from attending the Games and limited attendance to no more than 50 percent capacity by domestic spectators. More than 3.5 million Japanese fans bought tickets. Now the government, in concert with Olympic officials, announced that no

spectators will be allowed into any Tokyo athletic venue. The total ban means that organizers will lose \$800 million in ticket sales. So far, the billions in TV revenues are safe but would be imperiled if the whole event is canceled.

More than just money is at stake, though. Over the years, the Olympics have been an important symbol of peaceful international competition and cooperation. Holding the Olympics is an opportunity to demonstrate that the pandemic is largely behind us and that life can safely return to normal. There are plenty of reasons to believe it can be done.

The NBA "bubble" — where the basketball league sequestered players and officials at Disney's Orlando resorts for

three months last year to play the final games of the season and the playoffs — showed that sporting events could be safely conducted in an era before vaccines were available. Mitigation measures included daily testing, social distancing, mask-wearing and contact tracing. No COVID-19 cases were reported in the bubble.

Similar mitigation measures will be in effect in Tokyo. In addition, in contrast to the NBA bubble, most of the Olympic athletes have been vaccinated, which substantially lowers the possibility of viral transmission in the Olympic Village.

Japan's earlier strategy of allowing limited domestic attendance would likely be safe. NFL and NCAA games held with limited attendance this past football season did not increase the spread of COVID-19. Completely banning spectators is likely overkill, but it guarantees there will be no disease transmission.

While Japanese vaccination efforts have lagged those of other developed nations, the pace of vaccinations has recently surged. Japanese authorities initiated a drive to vaccinate the country's 36 million people over age 65 by August. This is the age group that is far and away the most vulnerable to severe COVID-19 disease and death, accounting for more than 80 percent of COVID-19 deaths. COVID-19 represents a far less dangerous threat to younger people, especially if they do not have complicating medical comorbidities. Vaccinating the elderly and convincing people with medical conditions to steer clear of public events will, independent of mitigation measures in place at the Olympics, curb COVID-19 infections and complications.

After a year and half of sacrifice and medical and economic hardship, it is time to look forward. The Tokyo Olympics can be safely conducted and will be an important symbol of human resilience.

Joel M. Zinberg is a senior fellow at the Competitive Enterprise Institute and an associate clinical professor of surgery at the Icahn Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He wrote this for Inside-Sources.com.

COVID-19's effect on the Summer Olympics

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations to SFA on a successful fishing tournament

The Saipan Fishermen's Association knows how to put on a fishing tournament. They, along with sponsors, government and private sector partners, and *peskadot* (fishermen) of the Marianas are to be congratulated for a historic and overwhelmingly successful 37th Saipan International Fishing Tournament. I was *magas* (captain) on one of four traditional 500 Sails CHamorro flying *proas* that brought the total to 90 boats that participated this year.

It was a historic event because this was probably the first time traditional sailing canoes were part of an international fishing derby. Chamorro canoe culture and seafaring traditions of the Marianas is what 500 Sails is trying to revive. Our teachers, Carolinian master navigators Cecilio Raikiulipy and Mario Benito and Tony Piaulug are helping us revive those traditions.

The SFA worked hard to ensure that we felt welcomed and supported. They coordinated for Atkins Kroll Saipan to sponsor our registration in the tournament. When we arrived to register

our canoes, *Aunty Oba*, *Neni*, *Richard Seman*, and *Anaguan*, SFA members led us through the entire process, which for most of us *lalayak* (sailors), it was our first fishing tournament.

The tournament swag bag was quite impressive. Budweiser, Exxon-Mobil, Herman's Bakery, and Roil Soil Clothing were just a few of those sponsors who brought cheers of delight from our crew. The strong sponsorship was also on impressive display at the tournament banquet. And what a banquet and awards presentation it was. All of us commented on how much fun we had.

My crew on the *Aunty Oba* were Sophia Perez and Jeremiah Benavente. It was a proud moment for our all-Chamorro crew as the three of us were one of Cecilio's first students in the 500 Sails *Lalayak* program. Jeremiah taught us how to fish, and we each took turns fishing and manning the *poksai* (paddle) and *gigehi* (sheet line).

We had so much fun zig-zagging between the prepositioned

ships anchored offshore. At the end of nearly 10 hours fishing, all we had a chance of winning was the marine debris raffle of the Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance. Jeremiah caught a thin piece of plastic packing strap on his squid lure. We were excited to enter our catch, until one of the motor boats came in towing a giant ocean marker behind their boat.

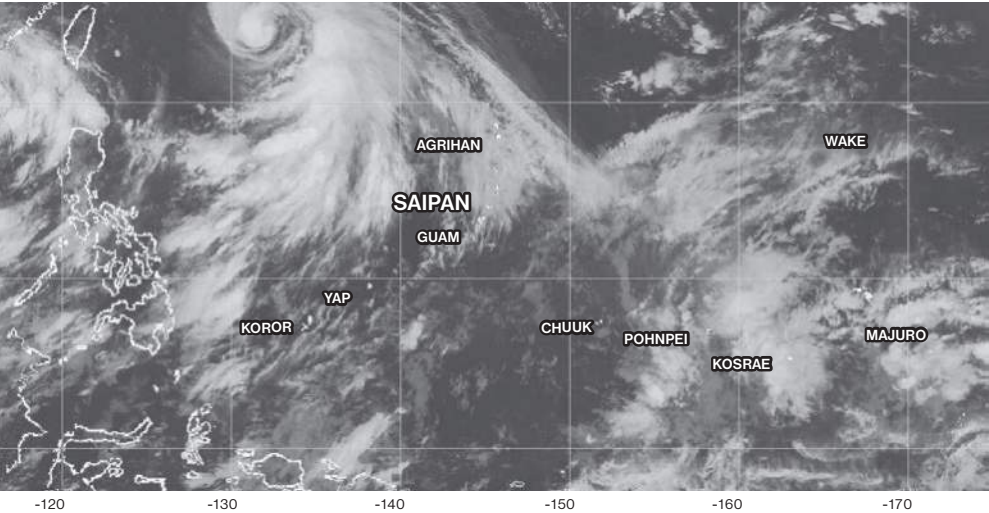
We have already started talking about how we can elevate our fishing and sailing game for next year. I hope SFA invites us back again. *Dangkulu na si yu'us ma'asi yan olomwaay* to Saipan Fishermen's Association and the entire CNMI for the *inafa'mao-lek* display of Chamorro hospitality to us *lalayak*, the international *peskadot*, and fellow anglers to the south in Guahan.

Arthur De Oro, MPA

Training director, Marianas Alliance of Non-Governmental Organizations

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.		Partly sunny with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:56 AM, MONDAY, JULY 19, 2021
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite shows scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the northwest of the Marianas, associated with moist air flowing into distant Tropical Storm In-Fa. A vigorous upper-level low is well to the northeast and could enhance any showers from the moist flow. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 4 feet composed of a combination of northeast and southeast swells. The latest numerical wave guidance shows a 1 foot west swell which would not show up at the Ipan buoy.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Wednesday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Thursday	5:56 AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:49 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:44 AM	2:59 PM
Wednesday	-	2:36 AM	4:04 PM
Thursday	-	3:34 AM	5:09 PM
Friday	-	4:37 AM	6:12 PM
Saturday	-	5:41 AM	7:10 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	59° / 48°	
Beijing	Showers	82° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	90° / 82°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	87° / 75°	
London	Showers	66° / 57°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	83° / 66°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	57° / 46°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	88° / 82°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	81° / 69°	
Osaka	Showers	93° / 81°	
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 63°	
Busan	Sunny	84° / 73°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	84° / 66°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	62° / 53°	
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	91° / 73°	
Tokyo	Showers	82° / 73°	
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	85° / 73°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:58 AM	High Tide	2.15	
10:29 AM	Low Tide	0.08	
5:38 PM	High Tide	1.84	
10:22 PM	Low Tide	1.39	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 7 via Guam	MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				UA184	9:50pm	4:05am+1	5
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	10:25pm	4:20am+1	1, 3
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3	LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. (The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)			

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				ROTA TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				GUAM TO ROTA			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
1205	11:00	11:15	Daily	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235.3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR HICKAM, Hawaii—More than 35 aircraft and approximately 800 airmen from Pacific Air Forces and Air Combat Command have deployed to the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command's area of responsibility this week to participate in Operation Pacific Iron 2021.

Pacific Iron 2021 is a PACAF dynamic force employ-

ment operation to project forces into the USINDOPACOM's area of responsibility in support of the 2018 National Defense Strategy that called on the military to be a more lethal, adaptive, and resilient force.

Approximately 10 F-15E Strike Eagles from the 389th Fighter Squadron, 366th Fighter Wing at Mountain

Home Air Force Base, Idaho; approximately 25 F-22 Raptors from the 525th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing at Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, and the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Hawaii Air National Guard at Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii; and two C-130J Hercules from the 374th Airlift Wing from Yo-

kota Air Base, Japan, is participating in combat dispersal operations in Guam and on Tinian this week.

Airmen deployed in support of Pacific Iron 2021 will demonstrate multi-capable airmen skills and conduct simulated combat flight operations from local airports in Guam and on Tinian. Fighters, mobility aircraft, airmen and required sup-

port equipment will operate from Andersen AFB, A.B. Won Pat International Airport, and Northwest Field, Guam; and Tinian International Airport, Tinian, to conduct Agile Combat Employment operations. ACE is the use of agile operations to generate resilient airpower in a contested environment and is designed to organize, train and equip airmen to be more agile in

operation execution, strategic in deterrence and more resilient in capabilities.

According to the 2018 NDS, DFE allows for more flexibility in using ready forces to proactively shape the strategic environment while maintaining readiness to respond to contingencies and ensure long-term warfighting readiness. **(PR)**



U.S. AIR FORCE/SSG BRADEN ANDERSON
U.S. Air Force Maj. Joe Dicocco from the 389th Fighter Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho checks an F-15E Strike Eagle after arriving in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, on July 14, 2021.



U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER
U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii and the 525th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, arrive in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 18, 2021.



U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER
A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor assigned to the 525th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, arrives in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 18, 2021.



U.S. AIR FORCE/SSG BRADEN ANDERSON
U.S. Air Force airmen assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron from Yokota Air Base, Japan, secure an MB-4 tow vehicle into the cargo bay of a C-130J Super Hercules in support of Pacific Iron 2021, July 17, 2021.



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor assigned to the 525th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, arrives in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 18, 2021. U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER



Airman 1st Class Carson Christian assigned to the 36th Airlift Squadron from Yokota Air Base, Japan marshals in an MB-4 tow vehicle into a C-130J Super Hercules in support of Pacific Iron 2021, July 17, 2021. U.S. AIR FORCE/SSG BRADEN ANDERSON



U.S. Air Force airmen assigned to the 389th Fighter Squadron, Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, conduct a post flight inspection on a F-15E Strike Eagle after arriving in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 14, 2021. U.S. AIR FORCE/SSG KEVIN IINUMA



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor assigned to the 525th Fighter Squadron, 3rd Wing, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, arrives in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 18, 2021. U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER



A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, arrives in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 18, 2021. U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER



U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptors assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, arrive in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 18, 2021. U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER

Tinian, Guam serve as training grounds for

'Pacific Iron 2021'

U.S. AIR FORCE/MSG RICHARD P. EBENSBERGER
A U.S. Air Force F-22 Raptor assigned to the 199th Fighter Squadron, 154th Wing, Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam, Hawaii, arrives in support of Pacific Iron 2021 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, July 18, 2021.

Business

American father, son sent to Japan prison in Ghosn escape

TOKYO (AP)—A Tokyo court handed down prison terms for the American father and son accused of helping Nissan's former chairman, Carlos Ghosn, escape to Lebanon while awaiting trial in Japan.

Michael Taylor was sentenced Monday to two years in prison, while his son Peter was sentenced to one year and eight months.

They were charged with helping a criminal in the December 2019 escape of Ghosn, who hid in a big box that was flown on a private jet via Turkey to Lebanon. Lebanon has no extradition treaty with Japan.

Ghosn was arrested in Japan in November 2018 on charges of underreporting his compensation and of breach of trust in using Nissan Motor Co. money for personal gain. He says he is innocent, and he left because he could not expect a fair trial in Japan.

The Taylors were arrested in Massachusetts in May 2020 and extradited to Japan in March. During their trial they apologized, saying they had been misled by Ghosn about Japan's criminal justice system. Michael Taylor sobbed and said he was "broke," denying they had benefited monetarily because the \$1.3 million prosecutors said Ghosn paid them just cov-



This Dec. 30, 2019, image from security camera video shows Michael L. Taylor, center, and George-Antoine Zayek at passport control at Istanbul Airport in Turkey.

ered expenses.

The Taylors' defense lawyer Keiji Isaji sought a speedy trial. Many Japanese trials last for months, if not years.

The maximum penalty in Japan for helping a criminal is three years in prison. Prosecutors had demanded a sentence of two years and 10 months for Michael Taylor and two years and six months for his son.

The Taylors' defense had argued for suspended sentences for the two, who spent 10 months in custody in the U.S. before their extradition.

In December 2019, Ghosn left his home in Tokyo and took a bullet train to Osaka. At a hotel there, he hid in a big box supposedly containing audio equip-

ment, that had air holes punched in it so he could breathe, according to prosecutors.

Another man, George-Antoine Zayek, is accused in the escape, but has not been arrested.

Separately, Greg Kelly, a former top Nissan executive, is on trial in Tokyo on charges of falsifying securities reports on Ghosn's compensation. Kelly, arrested at the same time as Ghosn, also says he is innocent.

A verdict in Kelly's trial, which began in September last year, is not expected until next year. More than 99% of Japanese criminal trials result in convictions. Upon conviction, the charges Kelly faces carry the maximum penalty of up to 15 years in prison.

'Bipartisan infra bill loses IRS provision'

WASHINGTON (AP)—A proposal to strengthen IRS enforcement to crack down on tax scofflaws and help fund a nearly \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure spending bill is officially off the table, Republican Sen. Rob Portman said Sunday.

Portman, who is involved in negotiating the bill, cited "pushback" from fellow Republican lawmakers who dislike the idea of expanding the reach of the IRS, which they have accused over the years of unfairly targeting conservatives. He said another reason the IRS provision was shelved is that Democrats are including a more robust enforcement plan in a separate \$3.5 trillion infrastructure bill that they intend to pass through the Senate using special budget rules and without Republican votes.

"That created quite a problem because the general agreement is that this is the bipartisan, negotiated infrastructure package and that we will stick with that," the Ohio senator said on CNN's "State of the Union."

Portman's announcement that the IRS provision had been removed underscores the difficulty facing the bipartisan group of Republican and Democratic senators in finding mutually agreeable ways to pay for billions of dollars of new spending their White House-backed plan calls for.

Portman said meetings were planned Sunday to discuss alternatives to the IRS provision, which had been estimated to bring in an estimated \$100 billion over 10 years. The proposal to go after taxpayers who skip out on income taxes initially had potential bipartisan appeal, but outside groups came forward to lambaste it as a way to enable the IRS to snoop around Americans' personal finances.

IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig said at a congressional hearing in April that the national gap between federal taxes owed and actually collected is about \$1 trillion annually, more than double what official government estimates have previously indicated.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer is pressuring lawmakers to reach agreement this week on the pair of massive domestic spending measures, signaling Democrats' desire to push ahead aggressively on President Joe Biden's multitrillion-dollar agenda.

Schumer, D-N.Y., said last week that he is scheduling a procedural vote for Wednesday to begin debate on the still-evolving bipartisan infrastructure bill. Senators from both parties, bargaining for weeks, have struggled to reach final agreement on a \$1 trillion package of highway, water systems and other public works projects.

Portman on Sunday called that an "arbitrary deadline" and one that was premature given that senators haven't even agreed on details of the "complex" bill yet.

"We want to get it right. It's not too much to ask that we have time to do that," Portman said. "We ought not to have an arbitrary deadline forcing this process."

Nation

Huge Oregon blaze grows, wildfires burn western US



The Tamarack Fire burns behind a greenhouse in the Markleeville community of Alpine County, Calif., on Saturday, July 17, 2021.

BLY, Oregon (AP)—The largest wildfire in the U.S. torched more dry forest landscape in Oregon on Sunday, one of dozens of major blazes burning across the West as critically dangerous fire weather loomed in the coming days.

The destructive Bootleg Fire just north of the California border grew to more than 476 square miles (1,210 square kilometers), an area about the size of Los Angeles.

Erratic winds fed the blaze, creating dangerous conditions for firefighters, said John Flannigan, an operations section chief on the 2,000-person force battling the flames.

"Weather is really against us," he said. "It's going to be dry and air is going to be unstable."

Authorities expanded evac-

uations that now affect some 2,000 residents of a largely rural area of lakes and wildlife refuges. The blaze, which was 22% contained, has burned at least 67 homes and 100 outbuildings while threatening thousands more.

At the other end of the state, a fire in the mountains of northeast Oregon grew to more than 17 square miles (44 square kilometers) by Sunday.

The Elbow Creek Fire that started Thursday has prompted evacuations in several small, remote communities around the Grande Ronde River about 30 miles (50 kilometers) southeast of Walla Walla, Washington. It was 10% contained.

Natural features of the area

act like a funnel for wind, feeding the flames and making them unpredictable, officials said.

In California, a growing wildfire south of Lake Tahoe jumped a highway, prompting more evacuation orders, the closure of the Pacific Crest Trail and the cancellation of an extreme bike ride through the Sierra Nevada.

The Tamarack Fire, which was sparked by lightning on July 4, had charred nearly 29 square miles (74 square kilometers) of dry brush and timber as of Sunday morning. The blaze was threatening Markleeville, a small town close to the California-Nevada state line. It has destroyed at least two structures, authorities said.

ACROSS THE NATION

With pandemic worsening in US, surgeon general worried

The U.S. surgeon general said Sunday that he's concerned about what lies ahead with cases of COVID-19 increasing in every state, millions still unvaccinated and a highly contagious virus variant spreading rapidly. Noting that nearly all coronavirus deaths now are among the tens of millions of people who haven't received shots, despite widespread vaccine availability, Dr. Vivek Murthy painted an unsettling picture of what the future could hold. "I am worried about what is to come because we are seeing increasing cases among the unvaccinated in particular. And while, if you are vaccinated, you are very well protected against hospitalization and death, unfortu-

nately that is not true if you are not vaccinated," Murthy said on CNN's "State of the Union." U.S. cases of COVID-19 last week increased by 17,000 nationwide over a 14-day period for the first time since late fall, and an increase in death historically follows a spike in illness. Much of the worsening problem is being driven by the delta variant first identified in India, that has since hit the United Kingdom and other countries, said Murthy. (AP)

Los Angeles hopes new mask mandate will reverse virus spike

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Los Angeles County residents are again required to wear masks indoors regardless of their vaccination status—a new mandate starting this weekend that health of-

ficials hope will reverse the latest spikes in coronavirus cases, hospitalizations and deaths. The rule went into effect late Saturday for the nation's largest county, home to 11 million people, where a sharp increase in COVID-19 cases is led by the highly transmissible delta variant. The vast majority of new cases are among unvaccinated people, LA County Supervisor Hilda Solis said Sunday. "I'm not pleased that we have to go back to using the masks in this matter but, nonetheless, it's going to save lives. And right now that to me is what's most important," Solis said on ABC's "This Week." California has seen a steady rise in virus cases since the state fully reopened its economy on June 15 and did away with capacity limits and social distancing.

Asia

Divers join search for 14 in flooded China tunnel

BEIJING (AP)—Divers have been dispatched in the search for 14 workers missing since water flooded a tunnel under construction in southern China three days ago, authorities said Sunday.

Zhang Yisheng, the vice mayor of Zhuhai city, told a news conference that the water level in the tunnel had dropped by 11.3 meters (37 feet), according to an online report by state broadcaster CCTV. Underwater robots, unmanned ships and sonar detectors would also be deployed, Zhang said.

Search teams have been slowly advancing into the tunnel as water is pumped out. As of Sunday morning, they had gotten about 600 meters (650 yards) into the tunnel, a little more than half the 1.1-kilometer (1,200-yard) distance to where the workers were trapped. That is the length of the 1.8-kilometer expressway tunnel that has been dug so far.

Their advance has been slowed by carbon monoxide fumes from machinery being used in the tunnel as part of the operation, though the level of the potential deadly gas has



Rescuers build embankments to pump out water from a flooded tunnel in Zhuhai city in south China's Guangdong province Friday, July 16, 2021.

been lowered by improving ventilation.

The flood happened about 3:30 a.m. Thursday. An abnormal noise was heard and bits of material started falling off on one side of the two-tube tunnel. An evacuation was ordered. Water rushed in and flowed through a connection into the other tube of the tunnel, trapping 14 workers on that side.

The tunnel lies under a reservoir, but the cause of the accident is still under investigation.

In March, two workers died in another part of the tunnel when a protective wall collapsed and they were hit by falling stones, according to a notice from the Zhuhai emergency management department.

Zhuhai is a coastal city in Guangdong province and near Macao at the mouth of the Pearl River delta. It was one of China's early special economic zones when the ruling Communist Party started opening up the nation's economy about 40 years ago.

of April after several months of no cases being recorded. Most of the 225 COVID-19 dead—190 of them—have occurred since April. Ho Chi Minh City, the epicenter of the surge, had already announced a full lockdown a week ago, after dozens of cases were reported in late May. The city now accounts for most of the cases in the country with over 2,000 daily.

Landslides kill 20 after monsoon rains in India's Mumbai

NEW DELHI (AP)—At least 20 people have been killed in landslides triggered by heavy monsoon rains in the Indian city of Mumbai, officials said Sunday. India's National Disaster Response Force said 17 people were killed and two others were injured after a wall collapsed on several slum houses in the Mahul area of the city early Sunday. The injured were recovering in a hospital. In a separate incident, three people were killed in Mumbai's Vikhroli neighborhood after half a dozen huts located at the base of a hillock collapsed on top of each other late Saturday night. Dozens of rescuers were clearing the debris in search of at least 15 other people who were likely trapped under the rubble. Heavy monsoon rains have waterlogged several parts of Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital. Train services in the city have also been disrupted. Building collapses triggered by landslides are common in India during the monsoon season when heavy rains weaken the foundations of structures that are poorly built. Annual monsoon rains hit the region in June-September. The rains are crucial for rain-fed crops planted during the season but often cause extensive damage.

World

WORLD BRIEFS

With pandemic in mind, pared-back hajj in Mecca for 2nd year

MECCA, Saudi Arabia (AP)—Tens of thousands of vaccinated Muslim pilgrims circled Islam's holiest site in Mecca on Sunday, but remained socially distanced and wore masks as the coronavirus takes its toll on the hajj for a second year running. The hajj pilgrimage, which once drew some 2.5 million Muslims from all walks of life from across the globe, is now almost unrecognizable. It is being scaled back for the second year in a row due to the coronavirus pandemic. The pared-down hajj prevents Muslims from outside Saudi Arabia from fulfilling an Islamic obligation and causes financial losses to Saudi Arabia which in pre-pandemic years took in billions of dollars as the custodian of the holy sites. The Islamic pilgrimage lasts about five days, but traditionally Muslims begin arriving in Mecca weeks ahead of time. The hajj concludes with the Eid al-Adha celebration, marked by the distribution of meat to the poor around the world.

In U-turn, UK's Johnson to quarantine after COVID-19 contact

LONDON (AP)—British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will spend 10 days self-isolating after contact with a confirmed coronavirus case, his office said Sunday—reversing an earlier announcement that he would not have to quarantine after facing an uproar. Johnson's 10 Downing St. office said the prime minister and Treasury chief Rishi Sunak were both alerted overnight by England's test-and-trace phone app. Both had met recently with Health Secretary Sajid Javid, who tested positive for COVID-19 on Saturday. Javid, who has been fully vaccinated, says he is experiencing mild symptoms. People who are notified through the app are supposed to self-isolate for 10 days, though it is not a legal requirement. But Johnson's office initially said the prime minister and Sunak would instead take daily coronavirus tests as part of an alternative system being piloted in some workplaces, including government offices. That plan was reversed less than three hours later after an outcry over apparent special treatment for politicians.

Wildfires rage in Russia's Siberia, cause airport to close

MOSCOW (AP)—Heavy smoke from raging wildfires covered the Russian city of Yakutsk and 50 other Siberian towns and settlements Sunday, temporarily halting operations at the city's airport. Russia has been plagued by widespread forest fires, blamed on unusually high temperatures and the neglect of fire safety rules, with the Sakha-Yakutia region in northeastern Siberia being the worst affected. Local emergency officials said 187 fires raged in the region on Sunday, and the total area engulfed by blazes has grown by 100,000 hectares (about 247,000 acres) in the past 24 hours. "The situation with wildfires in our republic is very difficult. I repeat that we are experiencing the driest summer in the past 150 years in Yakutia, and the month of June was the hottest on record. This, together with the dry thunderstorms that occur nearly daily in our republic, brought about significant wildfires," Aysen Nikolayev, Yakutia's governor, told reporters.

Rights group in Russia shuts down amid government crackdown

MOSCOW (AP)—A rights group in Russia announced Sunday that it was shutting down, citing fear of prosecution of its mem-

bers and supporters after Russian authorities blocked its website for allegedly publishing content from an "undesirable" organization. The Team 29 association of lawyers and journalists specializing in treason and espionage cases and freedom of information issues said Sunday that Russian authorities accused it of spreading content from a Czech non-governmental organization that had been declared "undesirable" in Russia. The group's website was blocked Friday, even though it rejected the accusations, and its lawyers said they believed the government's next step could be to prosecute members and supporters. "In these conditions, continuation of Team 29's activities creates direct and clear threat to the safety of a large number of people, and we can't ignore that risk," the group said, adding that it would take down all of its online content in order to avoid any risks and that its lawyers would continue representing their clients in a personal capacity.

Merkel tours 'surreal' flood scene, vows aid, climate action

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel surveyed what she called a "surreal, ghostly" scene in a devastated village on Sunday, pledging quick financial aid and a redoubled political focus on curbing climate change as the death toll from floods in Western Europe climbed above 180. Merkel toured Schuld, a village on a tight curve of the Ahr River in western Germany where many buildings were damaged or destroyed by rapidly rising floodwaters Wednesday night. Although the mayor of Schuld said no one was killed or injured there, many other places weren't so lucky. The death toll in the Ahrweiler area, where Schuld is located, stood at 112. Authorities said people are still missing and they fear the toll may still rise. In neighboring North Rhine-Westphalia state, Germany's most populous, 46 people were killed, including four firefighters. Belgium confirmed 31 deaths. Merkel said she came away from Schuld, still partly strewn with rubble and mud in bright sunshine, with "a real picture of, I must say, the surreal, ghostly situation."

Haiti faces uncertain future as mourning first lady returns

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—Haiti's political future on Sunday grew murkier after the surprise return of first lady Martine Moïse, who was released from a hospital in Miami where she was treated for injuries following an attack in which the president was assassinated. Martine Moïse did not make any public statements after she descended a private jet wearing a black dress, a black bulletproof vest, a black face mask and her right arm in a black sling as she mourned for President Jovenel Moïse, who was killed July 7 at their private home. Some experts—like many in this country of more than 11 million people—were surprised at how quickly she reappeared in Haiti and questioned whether she plans to become involved in the country's politics. "The fact that she returned could suggest she intends to play some role," said Laurent Dubois, a Haiti expert and Duke University professor. "She may intervene in one way or another." Martine Moïse arrived just hours after a prominent group of international diplomats issued a statement that appeared to shun interim Prime Minister Claude Joseph, the man currently running the country with the backing of police and the military.

ASIAN BRIEFS

South Korea to bring home sailors aboard virus-hit destroyer

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea on Sunday sent military aircraft to replace the entire 301-member crew of a navy destroyer on an anti-piracy mission off East Africa after nearly 70 of them tested positive for the coronavirus, officials said. Two multi-role aerial tankers are bringing the new crew and will then take home 301 sailors aboard the 4,400-ton-class destroyer Munmu the Great, Joint Chiefs of Staff and Health Ministry officials said. They said 68 sailors have so far tested positive and the results of tests for 200 crew are still pending. Fifteen sailors have been hospitalized in an African country that authorities did not name, while the rest are on the destroyer. None of the crew has been vaccinated for COVID-19 as they left South Korea in early February, before the start of the vaccination campaign, a Joint Chiefs of Staff official said requesting anonymity citing department rules.

Vietnam puts southern region in lockdown as surge grows

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnam put its entire southern region in a two-week lockdown starting midnight Sunday, as confirmed COVID-19 cases exceeded 3,000 for the third day in a row. The lockdown order includes the Mekong Delta and Ho Chi Minh City metropolis, the country's financial and economic hub with over 35 million people—nearly a third of Vietnam's population. Officials say they have to act as the number of infections reached nearly 50,000 since the outbreak reemerged at the end

Overdrive

Nissan Pathfinder finds its groove as 3-row family value

By HENRY PAYNE
THE DETROIT NEWS

The three-row SUV space is a Fleming's steakhouse on wheels with all kinds of delicious red meat on the menu. There's the regal off-roadin' Jeep Grand Cherokee L. The rockin' twin-turbo V-6 Ford Explorer. The gorgeous why-would-you-spend-20-grand-more-for-an Audi-Q7 Mazda CX-9.

But the midsize ute that has wowed everyone is the Kia Telluride. A filet mignon platter with a Big Mac price. With looks, tech and value, it undercuts segment stalwarts by \$5,000.

Challenge accepted. Here comes segment stalwart Nissan Pathfinder with its own value steak meal.

Pathfinder has been a segment regular going on five generations now. The original Pathfinder even predates Explorer. But sales have tailed off in recent years as the competition intensified and the Nissan grew long in the tooth. Interestingly, the all-new 2022 Pathfinder eschews Nissan's usual visual sizzle for meat and potatoes.

Walking up to the big ute in Holly, Michigan, for a test drive, I found Pathfinder surprisingly simple. No floating roof. No plunging full-fascia V-motion grille. No whoop-de-do front fender swoops. No hybrid drivetrain. Like the all-new compact Rogue SUV also introduced this year, Pathfinder's design is simple. Muscular. Timeless.

Pathfinder saves the sizzle for the stuff that really matters to families shopping in the



The 2022 Nissan Pathfinder.
NISSAN/TNS

midsize space: seats, towing capacity and room room room.

At 6'5" tall, I could sit behind myself in the third row sitting behind myself in the second row. Heck, even Nissan's 6'10" product planner, Andrew Molnar, could fold himself into the third seat without having to take his head off. Ah, the advantages of not succumbing to the SUV "swept coupe-roof" trend.

Of course, most families don't have kids the size of Kevin Durant, so the third-row seat space is a delight. Get the volume SV or SL trims and you can option a panoramic sunroof to bathe them in sunlight, too. Most important is third-row seat access—particularly when mom has popped out two more young 'uns (twins?) since their first two children were born.

That's right rug rats, mom and dad want to put the child seats in the second row for easy access. Which means you're headed to the third row if you're age 6-plus. No problem.

NUTS & BOLTS

2022 Nissan Pathfinder

- Vehicle type: Front engine, front- and all-wheel-drive, seven- or eight-passenger SUV
- Price: \$34,560, including \$1,150 destination fee (\$45,540 AWD, SL trim as tested)
- Powerplant: 3.5-liter V-6
- Power: 284 horsepower, 259 pound-feet torque (V-6)
- Transmission: 9-speed automatic
- Performance: 0-60 mph, 6.7 seconds (Car and Driver); Towing, 6,000 lbs.
- Weight: 4,506 pounds (SL as tested)
- Fuel economy: EPA est. mpg 21 city/26 highway/23 combined
- Report card
- Highs: Family-friendly three-row seats; storage everywhere
- Lows: Not as comely as some competitors; Android Auto requires cable (wireless Apple CarPlay only)
- Overall: 4 stars

Nissan engineers must be consulting 6-year-olds because they have made the second-to-third-row transition a wonder. Let's pause briefly to give props to Honda here since they were the first to engineer one-button third-row seat access in their own Pilot three-rower.

Pathfinder goes further.

First off, the rear doors open wide—almost 90 degrees—

for easy access. Then press a single button on the second-row seat, with child seats in place, and—WHUMP!—the entire seat jumps forward, opening an easy path to the third row. This jujitsu maneuver is unworkable on other brands (the clever Grand Cherokee L excepted) since the child seats prevent the seats from collapsing forward.

Exiting the rear coach seats is just as easy, thanks to another single button in the back of the second-row seats. Take a bow, engineers.

Aft of the third row is plenty of cargo space, including a bonus sub-trunk for additional room. The second-row captain's chair operation also features a removable center console. Get the standard bench seat and you can string three child seats across the middle row (triplets?).

The front seats are similarly spacious with best-in-class room. Console storage is enormous thanks, in part, to Nissan's compact "chicklet" shifter (also found in Rogue). Like the rear cargo area, there's a sub-cubby with space for little-used items—or purses that you want to keep out of public view.

There's even storage above the glove box.

Anchored by a tablet-sized screen, the interior is horizontally laid out with easy-to-use knobs and menus. The screen

is a bit slow to respond to commands, but it's hard to be mad since Nissan makes wireless Apple CarPlay standard. Mrs. Payne adores this—and it's a feature coming into mainstream vehicles as quickly as luxury barges (why are we paying \$20,000 more for luxe again?). I only lament that wireless Android Auto is not also available since, um, that's my phone.

True to its badge, the Nissan will competently negotiate off-road paths (AWD gives you plenty of modes to choose from). But for all its girth, the Pathfinder was surprisingly easy to drive over Hell, Michigan's writhing asphalt roads. Credit engineers again for crafting the Pathfinder's doors out of aluminum so the big, tech-laden beast gained no weight over the outgoing model.

Credit, too, the good ol' V-6 engine under the hood (Telluride is similarly powered). Yeah, I know, Wall Street investors go into a swoon whenever auto companies mention batteries these days, but range-limited EVs are impractical for trip-minded families and hybrids present packaging problems.

Meat-and-potatoes Pathfinder is all about space, and the 284-horse V-6 allows excellent towing capability of 6,000 pounds—the weight of your average RV when mom and dad want to haul the family to Yellowstone for a well-deserved camping trip after being cooped up at home with COVID for the last 10 years (really? Just 15 months? Seemed longer).

The snarl of a V-6 merging onto the highway is also my kind of music.

Tires too old?

Q: I'm having a problem getting basic tire rotations/services done on the Michelin tires I bought in Minnesota five years ago. Tire service centers in Arizona won't do simple things like rotate the tires because they say that they can't service tires older than five years due to the effects of the heat and sun. The tires are nowhere near the warranty mileage or tread depth wear indicators and the car is garaged.

A: Industry experts say that any tire that has been properly stored has a useful service life of six to 10 years. The in-use time starts as soon as you drive on them. Did you check the dates on the tires when you bought them? Of course not; only tire geeks do that. The tires may have aged on the shelf but are still OK. Find an independent shop that will handle your service needs.

Q: I have a 1996 Mustang GT 4.6-liter. Lately, at idle or low revs, a trumpet-like howl will come from under the hood. It stops when I push the accelerator. Of course like the proverbial squeak, it won't do this in the presence of my newer and more experienced mechanic. Any thoughts?

D.W. Virginia Beach, Virginia

A: Check all the hose connections for the fresh air intake system. A loose clamp may be the cause of the noise. Some Fords had an issue with the idle air control (IAC) valve and updated hoses alleviated the problem.

Q: I have a 2014 Jetta. I discovered during a heavy downpour that the sunroof is prone to leaking. Our local VW dealership declared it a maintenance issue, which is ridiculous. I paid \$1,500 for them to replace drain tubes that I, or anyone else, could not know existed. There is no reference to them in the manual. I wrote VW, who denied any responsibility. After Googling it, I learned there is a class-action lawsuit pertaining to this issue. Shame on VW. Do you have any advice on how to prevent a repeat?

A: This happens to cars on which the sunroof is not always closed when parked. Dust, dirt and other junk can collect in the channels that normally direct the water into the tubes. Rain then carries that stuff into the drain tubes. After time, the tubes get clogged. Keeping the tubes clean, or occasionally cleaning them, prevents interior precipitation problems.

Q: I know this isn't your typical question, but it's one that's plaguing our neighborhood. A new neighbor drives a car encased in shrink-wrapped advertising and parks on our street. Over the winter, the car constantly blared out "ZOOM" in bright colors, big letters and imagery. Now it's screaming "SELF" financial in blues and oranges. Do people get paid to drive these monstrosities? And why do companies pay for such in-the-face advertising when it generates such obviously negative reactions? What does it cost to wrap a car? Is

MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. He maintains this status by seeking certification every five years. Weber's work appears in professional trade magazines and other consumer publications. His writing also appears in automotive trade publications, *Consumer Guide* and *Consumers Digest*. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



it legal for anyone to do? And how hard is it to strip off?

A: Yes, people do get paid to offer their vehicles as rolling billboards. Carvertise, one of the largest, acts as a broker between the advertiser (or ad agency) and vehicle owner. Chicago is one of its markets. Vehicle advertising is cheaper than other media and seen by a greater variety than a stationary sign seen by the same daily commuters. Yes, it's legal. Car owners are usually compensated according to factors such as locations, time on the road and so on. The wrap is easily removed without damage.

Life & Style

“Black Widow” ceded its No. 1 spot to an unlikely foe in its second week in theaters: The Tune Squad.

LeBron James, Bugs Bunny and the rest of the stars of Warner Bros.’ “Space Jam: A New Legacy” defied expectations and won the box office this weekend. According to studio estimates Sunday, “Space Jam: A New Legacy” grossed \$31.7 million in North America, while “Black Widow” took in \$26.3 million.

Not many expected “Space Jam: A New Legacy” to pull off this win. The poorly reviewed film was pegged for an opening in the \$20 million range. But a sizable number of families and millennials who grew up with the original “Space Jam” left the house and went to a theater to see it, even though it’s currently streaming on HBO Max free for subscribers. Not only that, audiences also gave the film a promising A- CinemaScore, suggesting word of mouth could be strong.

“Space Jam: A New Legacy” is the largest pandemic opening for Warner Bros., which is significant since the studio in 2021 is releasing all its films simultaneously in theaters and on HBO Max.

It’s also the largest domestic opening for a family film since the beginning of the pandemic. Warner Bros. said 32% of the audience was under 18, which is larger than usual. Most of the major family films that have come out during the pandemic—from “The Boss Baby: Family Business” to “Raya and the Last Dragon”—have opened well under \$20 million. But audiences of all ages turned out for the new “Space Jam.”

“It shows that families have waited for a movie that everyone can go to and that’s this movie,” said Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros.’ head of domestic distribution. “It’s just a fun movie for the family.”

“Black Widow,” meanwhile, fell 67% in its second weekend, which, although steep, is also



This image released by Warner Bros. Entertainment shows LeBron James in a scene from “Space Jam: A New Legacy.”

fairly normal for superhero films, which tend to have front-loaded audiences. Internationally, the Scarlett Johansson-led film picked up another \$29.9 million, bringing its global grosses to \$264 million.

Last weekend, “Black Widow” became the highest grossing film of the pandemic. Disney also surprised many in the industry by revealing its first weekend profits from the movie’s streaming rentals.

Rental grosses were not provided this week, however.

This weekend also saw the launch of “Escape Room: Tournament of Champions,” a sequel to the high-concept 2019 film. Sony is projecting that the film will gross \$8.8 million over the weekend, which is actually better than the first film’s debut and in line with studio expectations.

“F9” took fourth place with \$7.6 million. The “Fast & Furious” film has made \$591.2 million globally to date. The fifth and sixth place spots also went to Universal films: “The Boss Baby: Family Business” with \$4.7 million and “The Forever

Purge,” with \$4.1 million.

“A Quiet Place Part II,” which recently became available on Paramount+, is still doing good numbers into its eighth week in theaters. It added another \$2.3 million, bringing its domestic total to \$155 million.

The Anthony Bourdain documentary “Roadrunner” also did well this weekend, grossing around \$1.9 million from 925 theaters, making it the top grossing specialty debut of the year.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

At Cannes, amfAR gala returns in movie star style

ANTIBES, France (AP)—Sharon Stone hosted and Alicia Keys gave a dazzling performance as the lavish amfAR gala that raises money for AIDS research returned to Cannes Friday evening.

One of the most anticipated nights of the festival, the 27th edition was a smaller more intimate affair than previous years, with the exclusive guestlist pared from 900 to 400 people with COVID-19 protocols in place.

The night began with a cocktail hour complete with ballerinas, flapper girls with Afghan hounds, vodka and

caviar shots and plenty of champagne.

This was followed by a seated dinner without the usual after-party that keeps guests dancing into the early hours. That didn’t stop attendees from enjoying the hottest ticket in town.

Dining under the stars at Villa Eilenroc in Antibes, this year’s theme was “I am a Movie Star” and guests were entertained with a fashion show curated by Carine Roitfeld. Keys was the music headliner, performing a spell-binding set which included her legendary hit “New York” as

well as the much-loved “Fallin’.” Keys sat at the piano and announced to the crowd that this was her first in person performance since the pandemic to a rapturous applause from the diners.

“It is beautiful, it is overwhelming, it is exciting, it is great to stay on mission here,” Stone said before the festivities began, noting that some of the science used to fight HIV and AIDS was deployed against COVID-19. “I think we’re staying on mission and we’re back at it which is really nice.”

This year’s festival jury president Spike Lee made a

special appearance along with a star-studded guest list from screen, catwalk and music including Dylan Penn, Natasha Poly, Orlando Bloom, Regina King, Swizz Beatz, Rachel Brosnahan and Soo Joo Park.

The live auction which took place during the dinner saw a combination of luxury holidays, jewels, art-work and one-off experiences go under the hammer.

Stone led the proceedings arriving on stage with a man on each arm. “Isn’t it so nice to be here!” she shouted before raising a toast of thanks to all the guests.

1. “Space Jam: A New Legacy,” \$31.7 million.	6. “The Forever Purge,” \$4.2 million.
2. “Black Widow,” \$26.3 million.	7. “A Quiet Place Part II,” \$2.3 million.
3. “Escape Room: Tournaments of Champions,” \$8.8 million.	8. “Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain,” \$1.9 million.
4. “F9,” \$7.6 million.	9. “Cruella,” \$1.1 million.
5. “The Boss Baby: The Family Business,” \$4.7 million.	10. “Pig,” \$945,000.

Adult son resists rent demands from parents

DEAR ABBY: Should a 23-year-old son pay room and board even though he spends little time at home and eats out often? He doesn't do laundry or help around the house. His argument is, we shouldn't take money so he can save and buy a condo.

We are middle-class people and, at times, some bills are hard to pay. Our 20-year-old daughter contributes \$100 a week, but she earns considerably more than he does. He is laying a guilt trip on us, and now I'm questioning whether our daughter should pay if he doesn't. Your advice will help us clarify how the household should run.

TEMPORARILY CONFUSED MOM

DEAR TEMPORARILY CONFUSED: Your adult children should both contribute because the income is needed. Since your son earns less than your daughter and can't afford to pay as much as she does, perhaps he should pay the same PERCENTAGE of his income as his sister. However, if that's not feasible, he should absolutely be doing chores around the house to make up for it. The longer you coddle him, the heavier his guilt trips will become and the greater your frustration will be.

DEAR ABBY: Does it seem to you that the definition of the

word "fiance" has changed? It used to mean a future spouse, someone whom you were committed to marry after a planned engagement period. Now, though, it seems to mean merely the person with whom you are currently having sex, or with whom you have a baby in common. Am I right?

OLD FOGY IN PHOENIX

DEAR "FOGEY": The definition of fiance has definitely changed since the inception of this advice column. Well into the 1960s, when a couple said they were engaged, it meant they would be married—usually within a year. However, over the last 20 years or so, I have received mail from women referring to the father of their children or the men they have been living with for an extended period as their "fiance." (Men, not so often.)

For anyone interested in reading more about this subject, go online and search for a fascinating article that appeared on Slate.com. The title is, "What Do You Call the Person You Are Probably Never Going To Marry?" by Hanna Rosin. I highly recommend it.

DEAR ABBY: I was recently invited to a potluck baby shower. I have also been invited to potluck weddings! I always thought the point of a shower/wedding was providing for your

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

guests while they provide gifts. Food is not expensive, and if money is an issue, one could schedule a shower outside of mealtimes, or with simple tea and cookies. I'd appreciate your thoughts on this.

POTLUCK BABY SHOWER

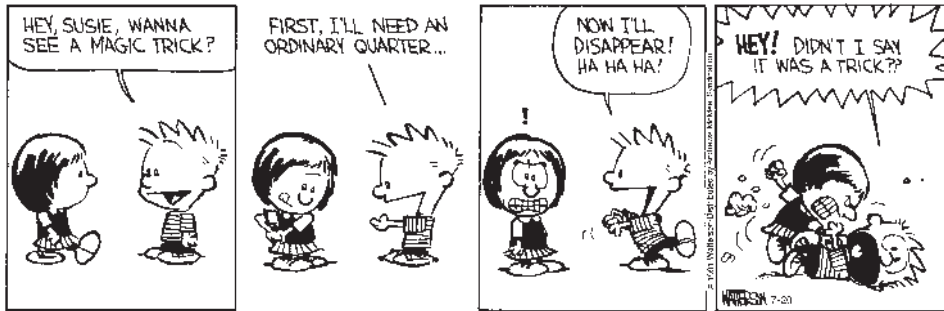
DEAR POTLUCK: My thought is: If the concept of a potluck baby shower or wedding is offensive to you, rather than judge, you should send your regrets.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



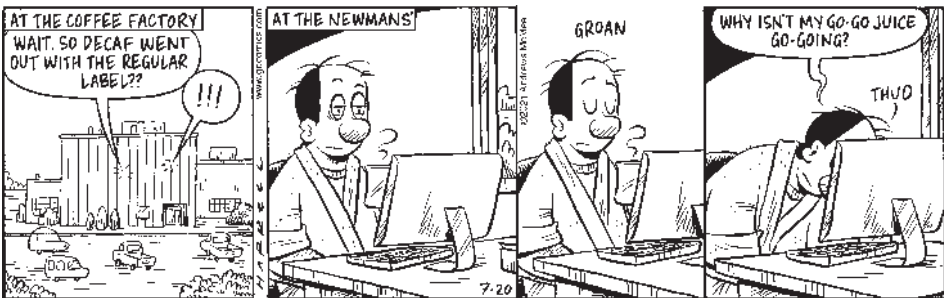
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



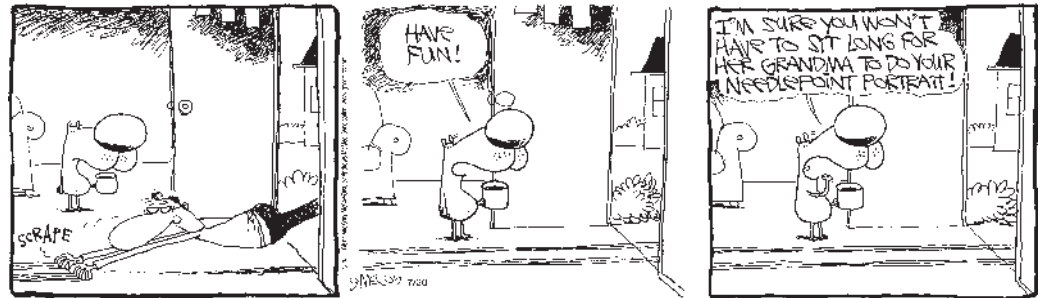
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Soother
5 March Madness gp.
9 Fella
12 "The King —"
13 Hoops great
14 Bruins legend
15 Olympian's dream
17 NYC airport
18 Young fellows
19 Encryptions
21 "My Name Is — Lev"
24 Tropical tree
25 "To — not ..."
26 Loses steam
30 Web address
31 "Don't Know Why" singer Jones
32 Compete

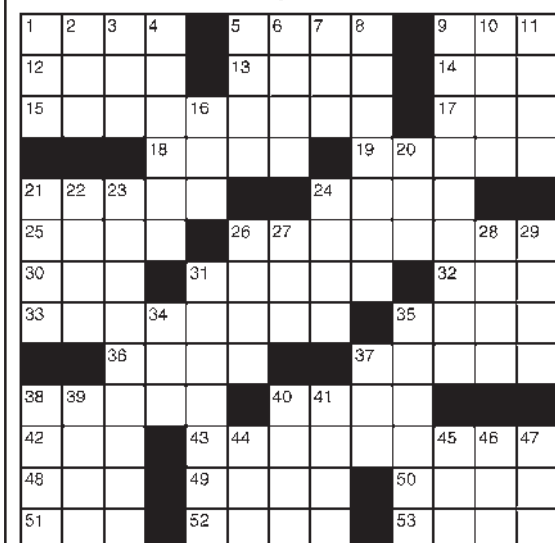
DOWN

33 Baby frogs
35 Michael of "The Martian"
36 Convention freebie
37 Skinfint
38 Part of Hispaniola
40 Dread
42 Director Lee
43 Telemarketing tactics
48 Ultimate
49 Ms. Brockovich
50 Horn sound
51 Tool set

10 Incite
11 Bikini parts
16 Scratch
20 Vintage
21 Border
22 Antitoxins
23 "Don't let go!"
24 Carrots' mates
26 Hand (out)
27 Rage
28 Merlot
29 Close
31 Observed
34 Cauldron
35 Bucca-neer
37 PC alternative
38 Slugger Aaron
39 Con
40 Move like a butterfly
41 — St. Vincent Millay
44 Mouths (Lat.)
45 Journal
46 Privy
47 Rds.

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-20



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Julianne Hough, 33; Judy Greer, 46; Josh Holloway, 52; Carlos Santana, 74.

Happy Birthday: Be yourself, make decisions based on what you want, and refuse to let anyone push you around. Speak on your behalf and make the adjustments that add to your comfort and convenience. It's your turn to shine, so tell it like it is. Do your own thing. Expand your interests, and gather the information that will encourage a healthy, happy lifestyle. Your numbers are 6, 14, 23, 27, 30, 33, 45.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Put more thought into money matters, health and contracts. Keep the peace at home, and channel your energy into something physical that will take your mind off your worries and clear your head. Help, not hindrance, will encourage a workable solution. ★★★★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Too much of anything will work against you. Limit your intake, your spending and the promises you make. Change begins with you; focus on being your best instead of trying to change everyone around you. Make health a priority. ★★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Take care of red-tape issues to avoid delays. Listen to what others say, and step in if someone offers false information. Take care of details, and leave nothing to chance. Home improvements will encourage you to play as hard as you work. ★★★★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Practice what you preach. Take the initiative to live life your way. Utilize your skills and

knowledge to help you achieve peace of mind and a lifestyle that brings you joy. Surround yourself with people who share your goals. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Do whatever it takes to improve mentally, physically and emotionally. Discipline and hard work will encourage you to set high standards and goals. Strive to reach your goals. A commitment to someone special will bring you closer together. ★★★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take care of issues before they escalate. A practical approach when dealing with an over-the-top person will help you avoid becoming part of someone's melodrama. Concentrate on being productive, and an unexpected opportunity will develop. Personal growth is in your best interest. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't waste time arguing over something you cannot change. Use your time and energy to accomplish your goals. You aren't likely to anticipate a change at home, but the outcome will prove to be a blessing. Self-improvement is encouraged. ★★★★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Seek an unusual way to learn or educate others. A change in how you deal with peers, friends or relatives will result in an optimistic transition that will help you bring about positive change. Travel and spiritual growth are featured. ★★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Test your skills. Use your strength and agility to reach physical goals or challenges, and don't give anyone the chance to mess with you. An investment that interests you will have underlying problems. Don't take an unnecessary risk. ★★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Opportunity knocks, and a potential gain is within reach. A partnership with someone who shares your sentiments will blossom into something exciting. Your negotiating skills will help you get your way. Speak on your behalf, and everything will fall into place. ★★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't follow in someone's footsteps. Choose a path that encourages you to use your attributes to advance. You can be loyal without being submissive. Encourage others to do as they please, and focus on personal happiness and peace of mind. ★★★★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Put your emotions on the back burner and head down a path that brings you one step closer to your dream. A creative opportunity will encourage you to follow your heart and invest more time pursuing something that makes you happy. ★★

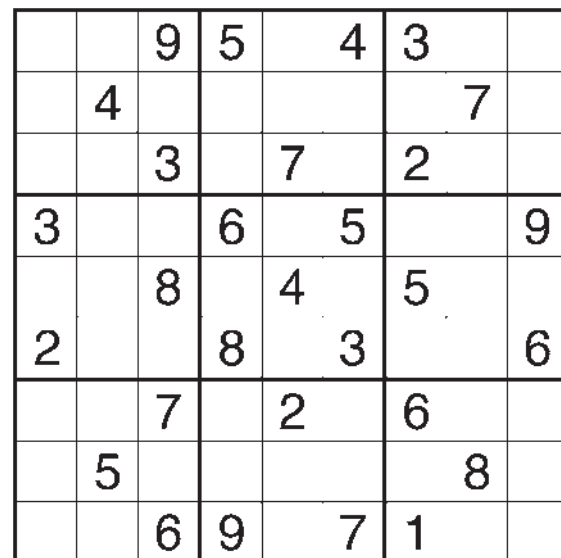
Birthday Baby: You are curious, diverse and appealing. You are opportunistic and proactive.

★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



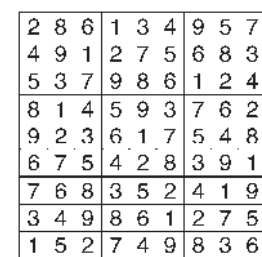
Difficulty Level ★★

7/20

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TUCK IN THAT SHIRT!

Solution: 7 letters



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7/20

Around, Attire, Belt, Blue, Bottom, Breeches, Chambray, Crisp, Dress, Drip, Elegant, Fabric, Fitted, Flannel, Formal, Habit, Hems, Jeans, Long, Looks, Lumberjack, Outfit, Pants, Pinch, Polo, Presentation, Professional, Relaxed, Reminder, Rumples, Sharp, Short, Size, Skirt, Soft, Style, Suit, Tailored, Trousers, T-shirt, Tuxedo, Waist, Wear, Wool, Wrinkles

Yesterday's Answer: Divers

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 45 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Escobar HR, single lead Nats past Padres in series finale



WASHINGTON (AP)—Alcides Escobar homered in the eighth inning and hit a winning single in the ninth Sunday as the Washington Nationals wrapped up a disturbing weekend with an 8-7 win over the San Diego Padres.

A day after the game was suspended in the sixth inning because of a shooting outside Nationals Park, the Padres completed a 10-4 victory. Washington then came back to end a six-game losing streak.

Tres Barrera singled off Mark Melancon (2-2) with one out in the ninth and, after failing on a bunt attempt, Victor Robles was hit by pitch. Escobar hit a flyball that center fielder Trent Grisham couldn't corral and Barrera scored.

Brad Hand (5-2) earned the victory. Juan Soto joined Josh Harrison with three hits and added a two-run homer.

Manny Machado, Eric Hosmer and Jackson Profar homered for the Padres.

Nationals ace Max Scherzer allowed four runs on four hits in seven innings. He struck out eight.

In the completion of Saturday's suspended game, Fernando Tatis Jr. had his third four-hit game of the season and scored twice for the Padres, and Tommy Pham had three hits and two walks.

Nationals starter Patrick Corbin (6-8) gave up six runs on 10 hits and four walks in 5 1/3 innings.

Yankees 9, Red Sox 1

In New York, Gleyber Torres and Rougned Odor homered to back another strong start from Jameson Taillon as depleted New York beat Boston.

Playing without All-Star slugger Aaron Judge and five of his teammates who also tested positive for COVID-19 recently, the Yankees won their second straight against rival Boston.

Taillon (5-4) pitched 5 1/3 scoreless innings of four-hit ball in his 100th major league start.

Ryan LaMarre added a two-run homer in the eighth and DJ LeMahieu extended his on-base streak to 30 games, longest in the big leagues this season, with a single that set up a third-inning run.

White Sox 4, Astros 0

In Chicago, Carlos Rodón allowed one hit through seven dominant innings, Yoán Moncada and Tim Anderson hit solo homers and Chicago topped Houston.

Danny Mendick and Adam Engel added RBI singles, and the White Sox stymied Astros hitters for the second straight game after losing their first five this season to Houston—and being outscored 34-9 in those

contests. Chicago has won seven of eight to move to the top of the American League standings.

Abraham Toro's sharp single past Mendick at second in the third inning was the only hit off Rodón (8-3) and accounted for Houston's only baserunner. The big left-hander struck out 10 in this meeting of division leaders.

Mariners 7, Angels 4

In Anaheim, Calif., Ty France hit a three-run homer, Logan Gilbert struck out a career-high nine and Seattle defeated Los Angeles despite Shohei Ohtani's 34th homer of the season.

Ohtani added to his major league-leading home run total in the ninth inning, hitting his first since the All-Star break.

David Fletcher's 26-game hitting streak ended when he went 0 for 5. The streak was the second-longest in franchise history for the Angels.

Luis Torrens also went deep for the Mariners, who have won five of their last seven. His solo shot off Patrick Sandoval (2-4) in the fourth inning was his ninth of the season and extended Seattle's lead to 3-0.

Phillies 4, Marlins 2, 1st game Phillies 7, Marlins 4, 2nd game

In Philadelphia, J.T. Realmuto followed a two-run walk-off homer in the completion of a suspended game with a 3-for-5 performance with two RBIs and Philadelphia beat Miami in the regularly scheduled series finale.

Realmuto's two-run 10th-inning homer gave the Phillies a win in the conclusion to Saturday's suspended game.

Andrew McCutchen and Didi Gregorius also homered in the scheduled game for the Phillies, who rallied from a 4-2 deficit to give starting pitcher Zack Wheeler the win.

Adam Duvall hit his 20th homer of the season for the Marlins, who have lost six of their past eight games.

Wheeler went six innings, allowing six hits and four earned runs while striking out seven to improve to 7-5. Hector Neris pitched the ninth inning for his 12th save.

Mets 7, Pirates 6

In Pittsburgh, Michael Conforto hit a two-run homer in the ninth inning to complete a rally from six runs down and New York overcame an embarrassing gaffe by All-Star pitcher Taijuan Walker to beat Pittsburgh.

Conforto connected off closer Richard Rodriguez (4-2). Dominic Smith led off the ninth with a single and Conforto followed with his fourth homer.

Walker, hurt himself with a huge misplay in the first inning.



Bryan Reynolds hit an RBI single and John Nogowski doubled for a quick 3-0 lead, and two walks loaded the bases with one out.

Kevin Newman hit a dribbler down the third base line and the ball started out in foul territory, but then began spinning back toward the line. Walker swooped in and swatted at the ball, trying to make contact while it was still in foul ground. But TV replays showed the ball was touching the chalk when Walker hit it, and plate umpire Jeremy Riggs correctly called it a fair ball.

Blue Jays 5, Rangers 0, 1st game Blue Jays 10, Rangers 0, 2nd game

In Buffalo, N.Y., Hyun Jin Ryu threw a three-hitter in the opener, and Steven Matz and two relievers combined for another shutout in the second game as Toronto blanked Texas in both halves of a doubleheader.

It was the first time the Blue Jays swept a doubleheader with two shutouts in team history. It was the first time the Rangers were shut out twice in a day since the team moved to Texas.

Lourdes Gurriel Jr. hit a first-inning grand slam, Vladimir Guerrero Jr. slugged his 31st homer of the season, and George Springer and Randal Grichuk also went deep for Toronto in the second game. Danny Jansen homered in the first game.

Rangers starter Mike Foltyniewicz (2-9) allowed all 10 runs on eight hits in 1 2/3 innings of the second game. Matz (8-4) allowed three hits in five innings.

Ryu (9-5) went the full seven innings in the first game, striking out four and walking one in his first shutout since May

7, 2019. Kolby Allard (2-6) allowed five runs, seven hits and a walk over 5 1/3 innings.

Indians 4, Athletics 2

In Oakland, Calif., Bradley Zimmer had three hits, including a home run on All-Star Chris Bassitt's first pitch, to help Cleveland beat Oakland.

Daniel Johnson, who grew up about 30 minutes north of the Coliseum and had a group of family and friends in attendance, connected for his first career home run and made a sparkling defensive play to help the Indians win their fifth in six games.

Zach Plesac (5-3) pitched six strong innings to win in his second start since breaking his right thumb while taking off his jersey in late May. Nick Wittgren and Phil Maton retired three batters apiece. Bryan Shaw pitched the ninth for his second save.

Seth Brown hit his 11th home run for Oakland.

Rays 7, Braves 5

In Atlanta, Yandy Diaz homered during a four-run rally in the seventh inning and Tampa Bay beat Atlanta.

The Rays completed their 28th come-from-behind win and took two of three in the series.

A.J. Minter (1-4) took the loss. Wander Franco's third homer in the sixth off Braves starter Drew Smyly made it 3-all.

Tampa Bay starter Rich Hill allowed three runs in four innings. Left-hander Jeffrey Springs (5-1) gave up one hit while recording two outs. Pete Fairbanks pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Rockies 6, Dodgers 5, 10 innings

In Denver, Charlie Blackmon

hit a solo homer in the bottom of the 10th inning, leading Colorado over Los Angeles.

Trevor Story hit a tying sacrifice fly and Blackmon followed with a drive to right off Phil Bickford (0-1) that gave Colorado the victory.

Will Smith, who homered earlier, singled off Mychal Givens (3-2) in the top of the 10th, scoring the automatic runner and putting Los Angeles up 5-4. But the Dodgers could not hold on. Their winning streak ended at four, and their eight-game run against the Rockies was also snapped.

Justin Turner also homered for the Dodgers.

Cardinals 2, Giants 1

In St. Louis, Harrison Bader put St. Louis ahead with a checked-swing single off the glove of first basemen LaMonte Wade Jr. in the seventh inning in a win over San Francisco.

The Cardinals won the season series, taking two out of three against the Giants in both series against them.

Matt Carpenter hooked a ground-rule double down the right-field line off former teammate John Brebbia (0-1) in the seventh. José Rondón was brought in to pinch-run, and he advanced to third on a flyout by Paul DeJong (homer). With the infield in, Bader hit a grounder that deflected off Wade's glove, scoring Rondón.

Darin Ruf hit his 10th home run of the season for the Giants.

Diamondbacks 6, Cubs 4

In Phoenix, Merrill Kelly threw eight solid innings, Eduardo Escobar hit a two-run homer and Arizona avoided a three-game sweep with a win over Chicago.

Washington Nationals' Alcides Escobar, right, celebrates his walkoff single that scored Tres Barrera (not shown) with Gerardo Parra (88) during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the San Diego Padres, Sunday, July 18, 2021, in Washington.

Kelly (6-7) needed just 75 pitches to navigate the Cubs' lineup through eight innings and threw 59 strikes. The right-hander gave up four runs and six hits, struck out six and walked none. Joakim Soria earned his fourth save.

Christian Walker and Nick Ahmed both had two hits. Josh Rojas reached base five times, walking four times. Escobar's homer was his 21st of the season.

Brewers 8, Reds 0

In Cincinnati, Corbin Burnes pitched sharply into the ninth inning, leading Milwaukee over Cincinnati.

The Brewers stretched their NL Central lead to seven games over second-place Cincinnati. Burnes (5-4) dominated, striking out 12 while allowing five hits and a walk in 8 1/3 innings. Reliever Angel Perdomo came on to preserve the shutout.

Christian Yelich hit a solo homer in the seventh and Willy Adames added a two-run shot in the ninth. Tyrone Taylor and Jackie Bradley Jr. each drove in two runs in a four-run fifth.

Tigers 7, Twins 0

In Detroit, Jeimer Candelario homered, drove in three runs and started two double plays as Detroit finished a weekend sweep of Minnesota.

The game was the seventh in a row between the teams. Minnesota swept a four-game series at home immediately before the All-Star break before losing three in Detroit. The series was scheduled for four games, but Friday's doubleheader was rained out. The Tigers swept a doubleheader on Saturday.

Orioles 5, Royals 0

In Kansas City, Mo., Matt Harvey ended his nine-game losing skid with his best performance in years, pitching six crisp innings and sending Baltimore over Kansas City.

Harvey (4-10) had been winless in 12 starts since his previous victory on May 1. The former All-Star allowed just three singles, walked one and struck out two against his former team. Harvey's six innings matched his season high. This was the first time since September 2018 that Harvey pitched at least six innings and didn't allow a run.

Carlos Hernandez (1-1) allowed two runs on two hits and two walks over four innings in his second career start.

Lillard, Johnson lead US to 83-76 exhibition win over Spain

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Two days after being added to the Olympic team, Keldon Johnson keyed a huge third-quarter run to help the U.S. beat Spain.

Damian Lillard scored 19 points and Johnson added 15 in an 83-76 victory Sunday night in the final pre-Olympic game for both teams before they head to Tokyo.

Johnson had been one of the young players training against the Americans, and had appeared in two exhibition games. The San Antonio forward/guard was added to the Olympic squad Friday after Bradley Beal tested positive for the coronavirus and Kevin Love withdrew because of a calf injury. The U.S. also added JaVale McGee, who didn't play.

"Keldon Johnson played a really solid basketball game. made cuts to the bucket," U.S. coach Gregg Popovich said. "When he did go to the bucket he was very physical. Very solid in half-court defense. He had a very, very good night."

This was the U.S. team's fourth exhibition in eight days in Las Vegas. The Americans were supposed to have a fifth against Australia on Friday, but that was canceled out of caution because of the coronavirus issues the Americans were dealing with.

The two top-ranked team in the world struggled early on



with Spain missing its first six shots before finally getting a basket 4:35 into the game.

Despite the slow start the Spaniards led 18-14 after one. They extended the lead to 38-36 at the half. Lillard and Durant each had 11 points at the half. The two combined to go



7 for 16 from the field while the rest of the U.S. squad was 5 of 19. Ricky Rubio had 14 points at the half for Spain.

"The defense was pretty solid. we couldn't make a shot, but they didn't let up defensively," Popovich said. "Kept their fo-

cus in that regard which will be important."

Trailing 46-42 in the third quarter, the U.S. finally got going. The Americans scored the first 11 points during a 23-6 run that spanned the fi-

nal two quarters. Johnson had eight points during the game-changing spurt. His dunk midway through the burst brought the crowd to life.

"I'm out here to be that energy guy, bring life to the team

United States players celebrate after defeating Spain in an exhibition basketball game in preparation for the Olympics, Sunday, July 18, 2021, in Las Vegas.

whenever you need it," Johnson said. "The third quarter we needed a spark. not saying because I got a couple of buckets. On the defense end, trying to bring some kind of energy or spark so we can get over the hump."

Spain only had one field goal in the final 5:44 of the quarter and was down 57-50 heading into the fourth quarter.

The U.S. kept the burst going to start the fourth and led 65-52 on Jayson Tatum's reverse layup with 7:30 left. Spain could get no closer than eight the rest of the way.

Rubio finished with 23 points,

While the U.S. had struggled at times in Las Vegas, Rubio, who has played internationally for years, thinks they'll figure it out.

"It's the first time they are playing together, it takes time," he said. "They are dangerous if they play as a team."

Jerami Grant returned to the U.S. squad after being in health and safety protocols since earlier this week "out of

Balance, grit put Bucks on verge of 1st title in 50 years

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo believes it's the tenacity of the Bucks that has Milwaukee a game away from its first championship in a half century.

That persistence has enabled the Bucks to rally from a 2-0 deficit in the NBA Finals. The Bucks lead the Phoenix Suns 3-2 as they return home to seek a potential title-clinching victory in Game 6 on Tuesday.

"I feel like we don't stop," Antetokounmpo said. "I've been a part of different teams. Usually when you're down 15 or 16 or whatever, down 0-2 or whatever the case might be, you kind of like stop. You kind of like, you kind of stop competing in a way. But I feel like this team, we don't do that."

The Bucks took the finals lead with a 123-119 Game 5 victory in Phoenix that showcased their impressive balance.

Milwaukee averaged 120.1 points per game in the regular season to become the NBA's highest-scoring team since 1983-84, when the Denver Nuggets and San Antonio Spurs both exceeded that average. But they've pulled ahead in this series by delivering memorable defensive plays.

In their 109-103 Game 3

victory, the Bucks owned a two-point lead when Antetokounmpo blocked a Deandre Ayton dunk attempt with just over a minute left. They were still up only two when Jrue Holiday stole the ball from Chris Paul to spark a fast-break that resulted in a Khris Middleton layup with 27.2 seconds remaining.

Holiday delivered again Saturday after the Suns slashed a 108-94 fourth-quarter deficit to a single point. Holiday stripped the ball from Devin Booker, dribbled downcourt and threw a lob to Antetokounmpo, who dunked while getting fouled with 13.5 seconds left.

"Honestly, it was great team defense," Holiday said. "I feel like we knew Booker wanted to take that last shot and played great defense on him and made him turn his back, and he turned right into me. I guess I was just in the right place at the right time."

The Bucks paid a heavy price to acquire Holiday as they tried to take the next step after posting the NBA's best regular-season record in 2018-19 and 2019-20 but failing to reach the finals each of those years.

Holiday responded by earning first-team All-Defensive

honors. He's played outstanding defense throughout the finals but struggled to shoot before coming through with 27 points and 13 assists Saturday.

His presence alongside Antetokounmpo and Middleton enables the Bucks to win games in a variety of ways.

The Bucks have scored at least 120 points in six playoff games, but they probably never would have gotten this far without gutting out an 86-83 Game 3 victory over the Brooklyn Nets after falling behind 2-0 in that second-round series. They shot 57.5% on Saturday but also made the game-clinching steal after Phoenix rallied.

"I do think that we always have our mindset on defense," Holiday said. "But when we get rolling on both ends, I feel like that's where we kind of get into our groove."

They're in that groove now and are a win away from accomplishing something this franchise hasn't done since Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Oscar Robertson helped deliver Milwaukee a championship in 1971.

"But the job is not done," Antetokounmpo said. "We have to realize that. We have got to stay in the present."



Resilient Suns? Down 3-2 in Finals, it's time to find out

PHOENIX (AP)—The Phoenix Suns like to believe they're a resilient bunch.

Now is one of their few chances this season to prove it.

The Suns will be facing an elimination game for the first time in this postseason when they travel to Milwaukee for Game 6 of the NBA Finals on Tuesday night. Phoenix won the first two games of the series before the Bucks rallied to win the next three, including Saturday night's thrilling 123-119 victory in Game 5.

It's the first time since January that the Suns have lost three straight games.

Down 3-2 in the NBA Finals is never an ideal situation, especially with the Suns facing Game 6 on the road. But Phoenix center Deandre Ayton said there's nothing left to do but embrace the current scenario.

"Tables are turned now," Ayton said. "Now we're the desperate team. We had our chances of being up and trying to finish the job, now we're in the same position that they were in. They're up and now we got to go get it. That's why it's a little bit more fun."

The Suns missed a great opportunity to take control of the series in Game 5. They jumped out a 37-21 lead in

the first quarter but fell apart on defense in the second and third, giving up 79 points over the two quarters.

The Suns nearly pulled off an improbable comeback after trailing by 10 in the final minutes, but Bucks point guard Jrue Holiday ripped the ball out of Booker's hands and threw a spectacular alley-oop to Giannis Antetokounmpo in the final seconds to secure Milwaukee's win.

It was a play that looked a lot like several for the Suns offense: Hand the ball to Booker and hope he does something awesome. There were a lot of times that he did and he finished with 40 points. The numbers say that the Suns had a very good offensive performance in Game 5: They shot 55% from the field, 68% on 3-pointers and 91% on free throws.

But Phoenix is at its best when its sharing the basketball on offense, whipping the ball around the perimeter in an effort to find the open man. Without many defensive stops, the offense was often stuck in halfcourt sets. Their 19 3-point attempts were far fewer than their usual 34 per game during the regular season.

Booker said he could feel the Suns' offense getting

stagnant in the third.

"We were trading basket for basket for I think five minutes straight," Booker said. "But we're at our best when we get stops and get out in transition. I always say we hang our hat on the defensive end and that's where we have to be better."

The Suns have shown an ability to respond to less-than-ideal situations in the postseason. All-Star point guard Chris Paul injured his shoulder in the first round against the Lakers and wasn't very effective the next several games.

Paul also missed the first two games of the Western Conference finals against the LA Clippers because he was placed in the league's COVID-19 health and safety protocol. The Suns still won both games.

Now comes the biggest test yet. The Bucks' big three of Antetokounmpo, Holiday and Khris Middleton are playing some of their best basketball of the season and the Suns have to find a way to beat them twice.

First comes Game 6. "One at a time," Booker said. "Our focus is Milwaukee right now. That is how have you to do these series, one game at a time and yeah, that's that."

NMIVA goes grassroots with sports camp

By ROSELYN B. MONROY
roselyn_monroy@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association has been holding basic lessons to children in the 12 and under age group for two weeks now at the SSS Summer Sports Camp at the TSL Sports Complex.

NMIVA president Somia Quan and secretary Shawn Davis are assisting the TSL Foundation and the Saipan Soccer School in conducting the volleyball sessions of the sports camp, which started last July 6.



Davis said that when NMIVA held its first clinic (for coaches and players) last

April, they made a promise to reach out to young kids, too. Davis added that NMIVA is very pleased to partner with the TSL Foundation and SSS and have the opportunity to keep its promise by taking part in this summer's sports camp.

"It's important that we reach out to young kids to develop a grassroots program. We have a lot of good players who learn to play volleyball outside of the CNMI or when they are already old so it will be great if we could develop more home-grown, from grassroots. It's nice to have a venue [like this sports camp] where children can learn to play volleyball, enjoy it, and have fun with kids at their age level," Davis said.

For the first two weeks of the sessions, Davis, Quan, and



other volunteers focused on serving and passing and also demonstrated warm-up drills.

Saipan International School fifth grader Aubrey White is among the participants in the summer camp and is happy

that she gets to try volleyball besides the sport (soccer) that she is used to playing.

"I registered for the sports camp to learn many sports and see which one I will like to continue to play. I like volley-

ball and hope to get a chance to play in the next school year," White said.

The volleyball sessions at the summer camp are part of the series of outreach programs that NMIVA is conducting this

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

A participant in the SSS Summer Sports Camp 2021 hits the ball during a drill in the volleyball session Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association conducted last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

year. Last April, FIVB Level III certified coach and Oceania Sports Education master educator Mike Rabago held a coaches and players camp at the Agape Gymnasium. Then in June, Rabago returned and conducted a five-day clinic for high school players.

Rabago is back on Saipan for the third time this year for another clinic for high school students and the free sessions started last night and will run until July 23. The Guam coach is also scheduled to visit the SSS Summer Sports Camp this morning and participate in conducting the drills.

TRAC

From Page 20

athlete must be a U.S. passport-holder and must have resided in the CNMI for five years.

Sitchon said TRAC would've loved Mount Carmel School star athlete Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez to try out for the national team, but at only 15 years old she might not be eligible, age-wise, for the 2022 Mini Games.

Earlier this month, Papua New Guinea's Stephen Damien was appointed the technical delegate for the triathlon events at the 2022 Mini Pacific Games in the CNMI. Damien has been organizing triathlon events since the mid 2000s with his first Pacific Games technical duties happening in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	56	38	.596	
Tampa Bay	55	38	.591	½
Toronto	48	42	.533	6
New York	48	44	.522	7
Baltimore	30	62	.326	25

Central Division

Chicago	56	36	.609	
Cleveland	47	43	.522	8
Detroit	43	51	.457	14
Minnesota	39	53	.424	17
Kansas City	37	55	.402	19

West Division

Houston	56	38	.596	
Oakland	53	42	.558	3½
Seattle	50	44	.532	6
Los Angeles	46	46	.500	9
Texas	35	58	.376	20½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

New York	48	42	.533	
Philadelphia	47	45	.511	2
Atlanta	45	47	.489	4
Washington	43	49	.467	6
Miami	40	53	.430	9½

Central Division

Milwaukee	56	39	.589	
Cincinnati	48	45	.516	7
Chicago	46	47	.495	9
St. Louis	46	47	.495	9
Pittsburgh	36	57	.387	19

West Division

San Francisco	58	34	.630	
Los Angeles	58	36	.617	1
San Diego	55	41	.573	5
Colorado	41	53	.436	18
Arizona	27	68	.284	32½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Collin Morikawa a double major winner and looking for more

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP GOLF WRITER

In a year of firsts in the majors, Collin Morikawa might have topped them all.

His performance over four days at the British Open was unlike anything seen at Royal St. George's, even in such ideal weather for the English coast.

In his first real test of links golf, Morikawa didn't make a bogey over his final 31 holes, blowing past mistake-prone Louis Oosthuizen and never flinching as Jordan Spieth made one last charge late Sunday afternoon.

Morikawa made three straight birdies at the turn to build a four-shot lead. He made a 20-foot birdie on the 14th when Spieth had closed to within one. He saved par

with a 10-foot putt on the next hole for breathing room.

He played with the confidence of a major champion, which he is from his PGA Championship title last year. He showed the experience of a veteran. That part is up for debate.

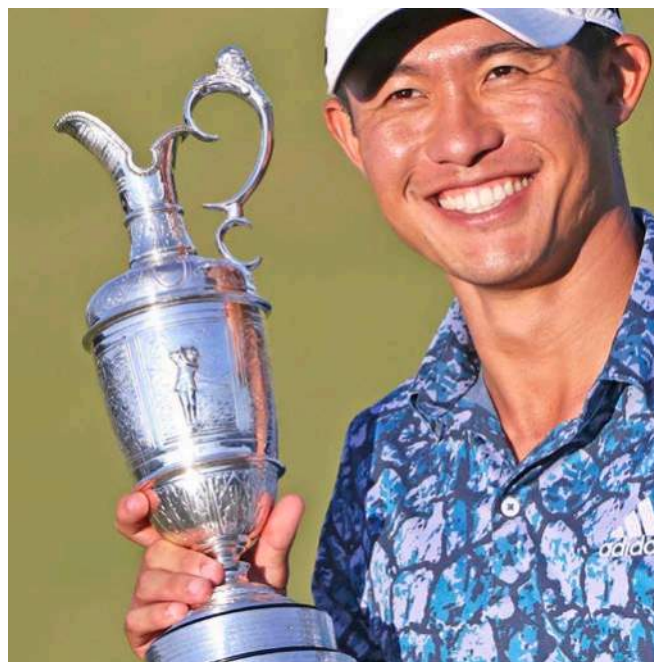
"When you make history—and I'm 24 years old—it's hard to grasp," Morikawa said.

The silver claret jug in his possession as he stood on the 18th green, Morikawa first paid tribute to Matthias Schmid of Germany, who won the silver medal as low amateur.

"It feels like literally two years ago I was an amateur," Morikawa told him.

That is entirely literal.

Two years ago, the ink was barely dry on his diploma



United States' Collin Morikawa holds up the claret jug trophy as he poses for photographers on the 18th green after winning the British Open Golf Championship at Royal St George's golf course Sandwich, England, Sunday, July 18, 2021.

NMISF

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nate the Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series in the waters off Civic Center beach in Oleai last July 10, said while he's happy that island swimmers are again back in the water an Olympic-size pool is no question crucial in developing the CNMI's national swimming program.

"The pool is a big deal because our swimmers need to be training in a formal pool setting and it's unfortunate that we don't have one just now and this is the best thing we can do and at least it gets the kids in the water. The downside is they don't get the official length of 25m and they also don't get an opportunity to practice their turns which

is a critical thing in any sort of swim race," he said.

Just the same, the longtime NMISF official said he's just happy that swimming is back on island after the COVID-19 pandemic put a stop to all competition in March 2020.

"It's more than a year and a half and we're so pleased and you could see the huge turnout. I thank the swim clubs really—Saipan Swim Club, Tsunami Saipan, Dolphin Swim Club—for really keeping the energy going and all get a gold star. All of them through thick and thin and through dark clouds and bright sunshine kept their programs going so it's really incredible," he said.

He said the reason NMISF organized the event was to give the young swimmers an opportunity to race and be in

the water in a more formal setting. However, the biggest reason was the Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series served as a qualifying event for sending four swimmers to the 2021 FINA World Championships in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates this coming December.

"We're very fortunate that FINA supports the travel and the funding to send these athletes there and so we're really blessed. We're sending two makes and two females."

The Marpi pool has been closed since Oct. 1, 2018. It has been shuttered since the end of the lease of Kan Pacific Saipan Ltd., which used to operate Mariana Resort & Spa and maintained the Marpi pool as part of its lease agreement with DPL.

NMI

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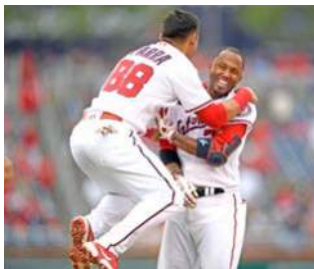
the delegation are coach Luam Khen Koo, assistant coaches Angie Ito and Irish Pagarao, and team manager Emma Lee.

The NMIWNT started its schedule with a group study yesterday afternoon. The Commonwealth players were also scheduled to have their first training match against a club in Guam last night. They are set to play three 30-minute matches.

For today, the group will have its first training match in the morning, while the game against the Guam Masakada is slated at 7:30pm. Against the Guam bets, the NMIWNT will also play three 30-minute matches. For tomorrow, the visiting team has scheduled its

training match in the afternoon, while its third training day is set for Thursday morning. The squad will then conclude the four-day camp with a training match against another women's club Thursday evening.

This is the first off-island event for the NMIWNT in more than a year since soccer activities have been either halted or limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In absence of these games, the pool had training sessions at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville beginning in July last year, while majority of the members of the team played in the Dove Women's Spring League 2021. The NMI players are training for regional and international competitions, including this year's Marianas Cup.



Escobar HR, single
lead Nats past Padres
in series finale

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NMIVA goes
grassroots with
sports camp

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

NMI Women's Team off to training camp



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Players and officials of the NMI Women's National Team pose for a group photo at the departure area of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport yesterday morning before heading out to Guam for a four-day training camp at the Guam Football Association National Training Center.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Women's National Team delegation left Saipan early yesterday morning for a four-day training camp at the Guam Football Association National Training Center in Dededo.

The group is made of up 22 players and four officials. The players' list includes goalies Toremy Diaz, Deseha Mendiola, and Mia Abuan; defenders Diane Pablo, Gabrielle Race, Christina Atalig, Britany Wally, Khristelle Itaas, Julianne Hall, Aubrey Castro, and Pia Nge-



wakl; forwards Guine Borja, Jannah Casarino, Audrey Castro, Summer Manahane, and Rizza Relucio; and midfielders Kaithyn Chavez, Tamia and Tyana Hix, Allyssya Angeles, Stephanie Flores, and Katrina Costales. Completing

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TRAC looking for triathlon coach

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

The Triathlon Association of the CNMI is leaving no stone unturned in its search for a coach for the CNMI National Triathlon Team for the 2022 Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games.

TRAC president Manny Sitchon said they have several candidates in mind to coach the national team. He said the prospective national triathlon coach will not only be expected to mentor the team but also develop the sport from the grassroots level up.

"Right now we are in the process of searching for a triathlon coach. We have in mind Cho Kaon, who is a Korean pro triathlete who always joins the Tagaman. He also brought a lot of tourists to the CNMI in the past," he said.

He said another prospective coach is from Manila, Philippines, while another is many-time XTERRA Saipan triathlete Arland Macasieb. "We have plenty of good coaches from the Phil-



MARK RABAGO

Triathlon Association of the CNMI president Manny Sitchon, second from right, poses with other masters swimmers during Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series held last July 12 in the waters off Kilili Beach.

ippines. There's also someone from the U.S. who is a Filipino-American in Arland [Macasieb]."

Sitchon said whoever gets the nod as the next CNMI National Triathlon Team coach will have to conduct triathlon seminars in schools to promote the participation of students not only for the 2022 Pacific Mini Games but also to find the next generation of triathletes.

As far as tryouts are concerned, the TRAC official said the group will conduct one in the coming weeks. He also volunteered that while the CNMI has a lot of triathletes, most of them are ineligible for the Mini Games.

To be eligible for the Mini Games according to the Pacific Games Council manual, an

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MARK RABAGO

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president John Hirsh talks about the Marpi pool during a break in Saipan Swim Club's Triple Crown Open Water Swim Series last July 10 in the waters off Civic Center beach in Oleai.

NMISF: 2 more years before Marpi pool can be used

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Already without an Olympic-size pool since late 2018, Saipan's swimmers will have to wait a little longer as E-Land Group is still in the thick of negotiations with the Department of Public Lands to take over the former Mariana Resort & Spa property that includes the Marpi pool.

Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation vice president John Hirsh said E-Land is in the process of developing a plan on how they're going to incorporate the pool in their property. However, he admitted that E-Land and DPL are still talking and the former would still need time before it reopens the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

rate the pool in their property. However, he admitted that E-Land and DPL are

still talking and the former would still need time before it reopens the former Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.

"The downside is it may take a while so it's probably going to take another two years before our pool gets re-opened up there just because due to the fact that they're working on the plan and the schematics on their development," he said.

Hirsh, who helped coordi-

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